NON-FIRING
DRILL & TRAINING RIFLES

Revised: 22 November, 2015

Many years ago I became interested in non-firing training rifles when I purchased a Swift Training Rifle at a gun show. No one knew what it was but I assumed that it would be easy to locate information on the gun. I soon found that literally no one knew much about non-firing training rifles. None of the major firearms museums or libraries could help me. I undertook the research and eventually I published a short study on the Swift and Long Branch Training Rifles. Since that time I have continued my research to include all of the known Training and Drill rifles. I offer the following information, not as a complete study but rather as a way of gathering additional material on the subject. It is my hope that other interested collectors will share photos and information on unique specimens. I will gladly add their information to this Web site to make it easier for others to find information on the subject.

Malcolm MacPherson

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The research on the topic of Non-Firing Drill and Training Rifles has been a labor of love. I am indebted to many people who gave of their knowledge and time to make this document possible.

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McCracken Research Library
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Strong National Museum of Play

BACKGROUND

The terms drill rifle and training rifle are often used interchangeably. There are subtle differences between the two and some specimens do not fit well in either category. However, I feel there needs to be some distinction made between the two. A more specific definition and correct usage will help differentiate between the different types.

Dictionary definitions:

Drill - Training in formal marching and other precise military movements.

Training - To undergo instruction designed to impart proficiency.

It is obvious that military drill requires a device to simulate the handling characteristics of a firearm and that rifle training requires a mechanical device that can perform the functions of a military firearm in order to develop proficiency. I offer the following definitions that more clearly reflect the difference between drill rifles and training rifles.

Drill Rifle - Any device having the same general shape and weight of a military firearm that has no movable parts or functional sights, or an obsolete military firearm that has been modified to prevent it from firing live ammunition.

Training Rifle - A replica of a current military rifle, having movable parts and functional sights, which can simulate the functions of that firearm but cannot fire live ammunition, or a current or similar military rifle that has been modified to the degree that prevents it from firing live ammunition.

It should be apparent that a **Training Rifle** can be used for drill instruction but a **Drill Rifle** is not appropriate for rifle training.

DRILL RIFLES

With the onset of WWI the American public became interested in military training. Groups of men and boys formed organizations that promoted military drill and rifle training. The periodicals of the period are full of advertisements for instruction manuals, uniforms and inexpensive training devises. Several firms advertised inexpensive 1903 Springfield replicas for drill purposes. They ranged from crude wooden rifles to excellent functional replicas. They ranged in price from a few cents to several dollars.

Drill rifles are interesting due to their variety and application. In some cases they differ only slightly from training rifles, making them difficult to classify. In the past, drill rifles were often made from obsolete military firearms that had been modified in such a way as to make them incapable of firing live ammunition. While drill rifles had some military application, their primary use was in training non-military personnel in the various elements of drill with a firearm. Frequently this occurred in military schools, ROTC programs and color guards. In these applications it was desirable to use non-firing rifles for safety and economy. These obsolete rifles were usually very inexpensive and could be easily obtained from military surplus outlets such as Bannerman's or the DCM (Department of Civilian Marksmanship). In some cases these rifles were sold as functioning firearms and later deactivated in some way by the purchasing organization.

The steps taken to deactivate obsolete rifles depended greatly on the supplier and their intended application. In some cases the only thing that was done was to cut off the tip of the firing pin. At the other end of the continuum, relatively modern military rifles had significant modifications that would prevent them from ever being made operative again. All drill rifles used by the military fall into this last category. In all cases they had the same appearance and feel as the original rifle.

Drill rifles are subjected to considerable handling abuse and frequently have surface damage. To prevent injury to the handler the sight blades were usually removed, as they were an unneeded appendage. In later years some wooden stocks were replaced with plastic stocks that would withstand greater abuse. This was particularly true of drill rifles used by drill corps that had routines where the rifles were thrown in the air during a performance.

As each model of military rifle became obsolete they became available through military surplus. In the US, the pattern most used has been the 1903 Springfield. This was due in part to the huge numbers that were available as a result of production during WWI and WWII. This pattern also has a weight and shape that make it desirable for drill purposes.

There is a category that I will call parade rifles that are functioning rifles that have been highly refinished and are used by color guards in parades or to fire salutes. The metal parts are usually polished and often chrome plated. These are nearly always used by veterans' organizations. I do not consider them as traditional drill rifles because they are carefully handled and can still fire live ammunition.

Another category is called "Quaker Guns" which are fake guns. The Quaker opposition to war was the source of the word Quaker in the term Quaker Gun. The term Quaker Gun goes back as far as the American Revolution when logs were peeled and made to represent cannon. This occurred twice during 1780 at the battle of Rugeley's Mill and at Hunt's Bluff in South Carolina. Such artificial cannon were also used extensively by both sides in the American Civil War and the military use of such fakes continues to the present time. Francis Bannerman was a dealer who bought great quantities of military surplus following the Civil War. He was the first person to apply the term "Quaker Guns" to hand held firearms. He was always looking for new markets and between 1890 and 1920 he modified obsolete rifles by replacing their metal barrels with wooden barrels and applied the name Quaker Guns to them. These were much lighter in weight and were sold to organizations of boys. Two of these were the "Sons of Union Veterans" and the "Baptist Boys Brigade". They represent one of the earliest form of non-firing drill rifles. Bannerman also sold fully operational military rifles that could be converted into drill rifles with only a slight modification. Between 1910 and 1920, he converted Model 1891 Russian rifles into drill rifles by shortening the barrels, modifying the magazine and removing the firing pin tip. These drill rifles were made to look as much as possible like the 1903 Springfield. He was very creative in developing a market for his military surplus and sold his "product" all over the world.

I will attempt to identify various models of drill rifles. In every case you will find variations in the way individual rifles have been converted because they were produced at different times by different suppliers.

The 1873 Springfield rifle was probably the first US military rifle to be used as a drill rifle. Prior to this period all of the firearms were muzzle loaders and could be used for drill with no alteration. The 1873 Springfield rifles in functioning condition were available from Bannerman's for about $3 dollars in the early 1900's. Many military schools used these as drill rifles through WWII. The usual modification was to remove the firing pin and occasionally remove the sights. I know of one example where a hole was drilled through the barrel at the rear sight mounting screw hole. Most of these 1873 Springfield drill rifles will have some markings on the butt stock that would identify them as drill rifles. These markings may be numbers or letters stamped, branded or painted on the butt stock. This was done by the institution for accountability purposes.

The Krag rifle was only used for a very brief time and was soon made obsolete by the 1903 Springfield. The Krag had many design features that made it a poor choice as a military rifle. The large magazine port near the balance point made it less desirable as a drill rifle. While some Krag rifles were released to American Legion Posts and military schools they were most often used for parade purposes. They are rarely found with significant alteration or stock markings.

Millions of 1903 Springfield rifles were produced from their introduction in 1903 through the end of WWII. The first 800,000 of these rifles are called "low number" and are considered unsafe due to improperly heat treated receivers. These low number rifles were withdrawn from use by the military and at various times sold as surplus. Many of these rifles were modified and became drill rifles. Following both World Wars many functioning rifles were released through the DCM for purchase by civilians at a very low cost. This made them very attractive for drill purposes. Many of these 1903 rifles that were used for drill only had the firing pin tip ground off and the front sight blade removed. The clearest indication of their use is the external condition of the wood and metal surfaces. Both will often show significant dents and abuse. All of the 1903 rifles that were uses by the military had significant de-mill operations performed on them. The barrels were plugged and the receiver was welded to the barrel. Usually the magazine cut off was welded to the receiver so that the bolt could not be removed. In most cases the front sight blade was removed. When the supply of wooden stocks was depleted a replica plastic stock was manufactured that was much stronger and could stand a great deal of abuse. This modification is an example of a gray area between Drill rifles and Training Rifles as it can still perform training functions.

There is also a group of wooden replicas of the 1903 Springfield. They tend to be rather crude and often have few metal parts. They have no moving parts and are usually significantly lighter in weight. Most of these are unmarked and it has been difficult to determine their origin or date of manufacture. It is highly probable that they were all made between 1915 and 1925.

The M1 Garand has seen some use as a drill rifle but it has handling characteristics that make it less desirable. They are frequently used as a parade rifle and there are also non-firing replicas available for drill.

TRAINING RIFLES

There are a considerable number and types of non-firing training rifles that were produced during the first half of the 20th century. The vast majority of them were made by Japan, Great Britain and the United States. Japan used them primarily to train school boys, while Great Britain and the United States used them with military personnel.

Following WWI Japan initiated a program that required all high school age boys be instructed in weapons training as part of their education. This practice continued through WWII. They produced thousands of training rifles using parts from older firearms as well as converting the type 30 rifles that had been used in the Russo-Japanese of 1904-1905. There are many variations of their training rifles but they all have functional bolts and sights. Some of them could fire live ammunition but were chambered for cartridges other than the current Japanese round. Some models were designed to fire blanks and often had smooth bore barrels. Some specimens have the original markings ground off but there are no special markings that would identify them as training rifles. They vary greatly in condition and quality. Many of these rifles could be considered operational firearms rather than non-firing training rifles. They are included here only because of their intended use.

There was a great shortage of US military rifles prior to the start of WWI and WWII. As a result of this shortage there were several Drill and Training rifles produced for the military and civilian use.

During WWI the only true training rifle was produced by the United States Training Rifle Co. It is the most accurate replica of the 1903 Springfield rifle ever produced. It not only had the look and feel of the 1903 but also had an operating bolt and an adjustable rear sight. They had a contract with the US Navy for 10,000 training rifles.

During WWII the Parris-Dunn Training Rifle was used by the US Army and Navy. This was a very inexpensive replica of the 1903 Springfield and was much lighter in weight and had a simplified bolt and trigger mechanism. Although is had moving part and sights, it is in the gray area as it was used primarily for guard duty and similar activities by troops stationed in the United States. They produced 335,000 of these training rifles under military contracts.

There is another group of non-firing rifles that generally fall in the training rifle category. These are dummy rifles that were used for bayonet training. These generally have no sights or moving parts but were designed to be of the same weight and shape as a military model.

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Part 1: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Cadet Rifles

While my research has been directed toward non-firing drill and training rifles, it is apparent that many functional firearms were purchased for drill use with no intent to ever fire them. Many military schools used functional muzzle loading firearms for drill purposes well into the 20th century. Because of this, I will briefly discuss the major suppliers and the various types of Cadet Rifles that they sold. It should be noted that many of the functional Cadet rifles were deactivated in different ways by the users at a later date. This resulted in similar firearms being modified in slightly different ways and this makes it very difficult to determine their origin.

It is likely that some of the early Military Schools may have used cut down flint lock muskets prior to the Civil War but at that time period very few guns of any kind would have been required for drill purposes. Bannerman shows the only known cut down flintlock musket in his 1889 catalog. It appears that the market for Cadet rifles started in the late 1880's as earlier catalogs have no listing of them. At this time there were apparently enough Military Schools in operation to make the sale of inexpensive cadet rifles profitable. There would have been little need for functional firearms as they would have been used primarily for drill purposes. There was a very large supply of surplus Civil War muskets in functional condition. These muskets required very little modification and that could be purchased at very low cost. Prior to 1890 the vast majority of Cadet drill rifles were made from surplus military muskets and trap door Springfield rifles. The American Boys Brigade was founded in 1893 and immediately expanded the demand for suitable drill rifles. By 1896 there were several imported Cadet rifles that had been made specifically made for the Boys Brigade market. There remained a strong demand for cadet drill rifles through 1915.

Starting in1851 Springfield Arsenal produced a Cadet model for the US Military Academy at West Point. These were similar to the service rifles of the period but had a few minor variations and a shorter barrel length. There were muzzle loading Cadet models of the 1841, 1851 and 1858 Springfield muskets. Cadet models of the 1867 and 1869 Allin conversions were the first breech loading models to be produced. Both of these were chambered for the 50 CF cartridge. The model 1873, 1877 and 1884 trap door Cadet rifles were chambered in 45-70 caliber. The 1896 Cadet model of the Krag rifle was the last Cadet rifle produced at Springfield Arsenal. This version was chambered in 30-40 caliber and was identical in length to the standard Krag rifle. All of the Cadet rifles made at the Springfield Arsenal were produced in small quantities and are quite rare. Any reference to “The West Point System” as it relates to Cadet rifles usually is referring to the correct barrel length rather than being an actual Cadet rifle used by the US Military Academy. Barrel lengths varied from 30 to 40 inches with the Krag being the shortest at 30 inches and the 1841 and 1851 models being the longest at 40 inches.

The use of the word Cadet Rifles in this study refers to rifles and muskets that have had the barrels shortened, sometimes by as much as 10 inches. Often guns with nearly full length barrels were referred to as Quaker Guns because the metal barrels had been replaced with wooden barrels to lighten their weight. It appears likely that Bannerman was the sole producer of Quaker guns. None of these Cadet Rifles were modified in military arsenals, nor issued to regular Army troops. They were designed to be used by young men and boys in military schools and by organizations like the Boys Brigade.

During the late 1800's there were a number of companies in America that specialized in selling what was referred to as “Sporting Goods”. This term had a very different meaning than it does today. Sporting Goods dealers primarily carried firearms, fishing, and camping gear. Many of these items were imported from Europe. Following the American Civil War a huge amount of military surplus came on the market and most of these Sporting Goods Dealers carried obsolete military firearms as well as sporting rifles, shotguns, and pistols. Most of them carried some form of Cadet drill or training rifles and many of these were fully operational firearms.

The following are some of the American companies that operated between 1860 and 1910 and would have been considered Sporting Goods dealers and importers.

Charles Godfrey

Clabrough & Golcher

E.C. Meacham Arms Co.

Francis Tomes and Sons

Hartley & Graham

John P. Moore

Schoverling, Daly & Gales

Schuyler, Hartley & Graham

M. Hartley Co. and Bannerman's would have been considered firearms dealers and/or military surplus dealers and both were importers of firearms. Francis Bannerman put out catalogs from 1866 through1966 and is the most widely known military surplus dealer of that period. While less well known, Marcellus Hartley was dealing in surplus rifles as well as Cadet rifles during the same time period and had many American and European business connections in the gun trade. Because of this fact, it seems probable that he may have been the major importer of manufactured Cadet rifles. However, there is no documentation that clearly indicates where many of the Cadet rifles were produced. It is clear that several types were produced in Europe. Francis Bannerman was the major supplier of surplus military arms and probably supplied many of the Cadet rifles to the Sporting Goods trade. It is known that he did a large business in the wholesale market. Although it is not well documented, Bannerman had a building in Brooklyn he called the Armory, where he may have modified rifles into Cadet configuration. You can find further information in the Bannerman section of this study.

Marcellus Hartley was a quiet energetic business man who became one of the five richest Americans in the early 1900's. He used much of his wealth in quietly promoting philanthropic work. I will give some background relating to Hartley and some insight into his business connections.

Marcellus Hartley was born 9/3/1827 and died 1/8/1902. He got his early business training at his father's importing company. After a few years of working for his father, he wanted to advance himself and went to work for Francis Tomes and Sons who were sporting goods and gun importers. Here he soon advanced to the head of the gun department. In 1854 he formed a partnership with two friends, Jacob Rutsen Schuyler and Malcolm Graham. This company was known as Schuyler, Hartley and Graham. Although they were young, they were very talented and energetic business men. Hartley went to Europe on buying trips while Schuyler and Graham operated stores in America. They soon became the largest Sporting Goods dealers in this country.

At the start of the Civil War in 1862, Hartley was approached by Secretary of War Edward Stanton to become the US purchasing agent in Europe to secure firearms for the Union Army. He was given the rank of Brigadier General by President Lincoln. Because of his previous business contacts in Europe he successfully secured the available firearms for the Union Army and prevented similar sales to the Confederacy.

Following the War, he became interested in the development of metallic cartridges and founded the Union Metallic Cartridge. In 1888 he was the sole owner of UMC and acquired E. Remington and Sons to form the Remington Arms Company. During this period huge quantities of rifles and ammunition were produced for the combatants in the Franco-Prussian and Russo-Turkish Wars. Also during this time period he had interests in Banks, Insurance, and Electric Lighting companies and contributed heavily to many charities.

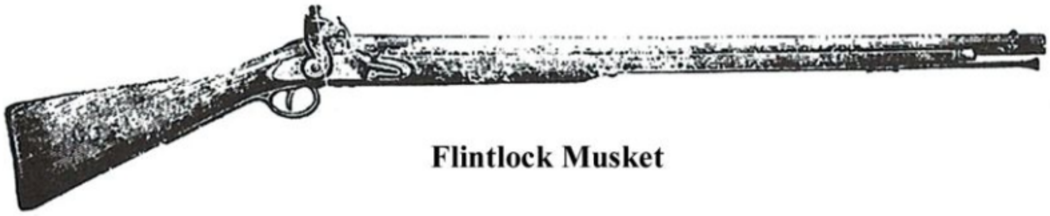
In 1875 Schuyler retired and their sporting goods company became known as Hartley and Graham. Graham died in 1899 and the company then became the M. Hartley Co.

Although it is impossible to document, it seems likely that Marcellus Hartley had a significant influence in the Cadet Rifle trade. Due to his connections in Europe and owning Remington Arms Company, he may have been the major importer of this class of guns. In the 1903-04 M. Hartley Co. Catalog it indicates that at least one of the Cadet rifles being sold by his firm was only produced for his company by Remington. It is unknown if he had Remington alter any of the Cadet muskets that were in his catalog but is certainly not beyond the realm of possibility.

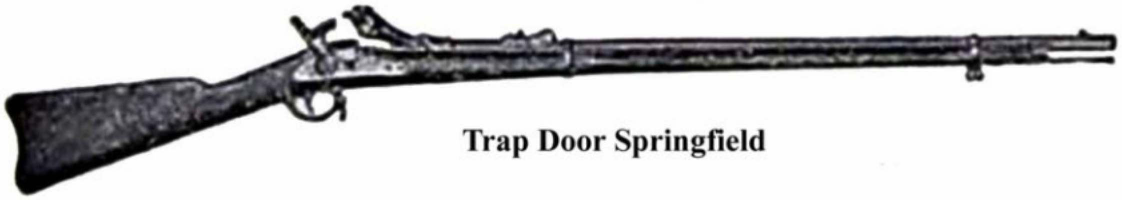
There are several broad categories of Cadet rifles that have similar characteristics. They range in overall length from 43 inches to 48 inches. The barrels and sights are usually modified in some way and often an attempt has been made to decrease the weight of the gun. It must be remembered that there may be variations in similar types of guns.

The following illustrations are taken from old catalogs and show some of the variations that existed in Cadet Rifles.

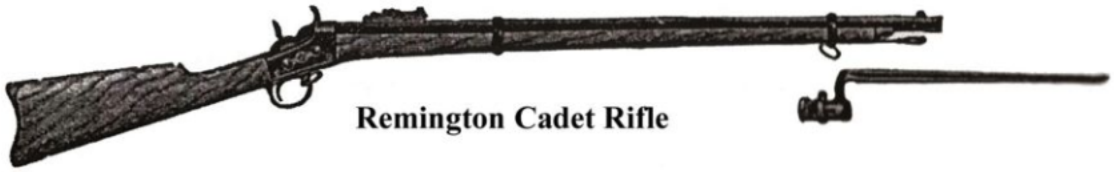
Altered Muskets



Flintlock Musket

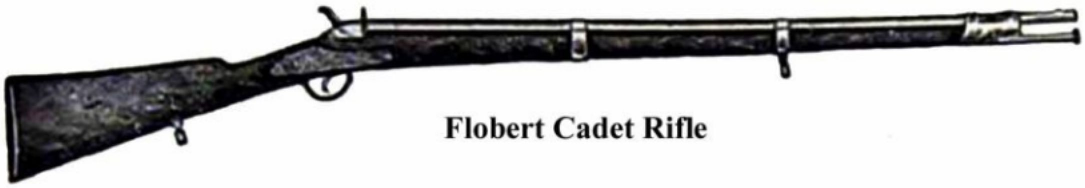


Trap Door Springfield

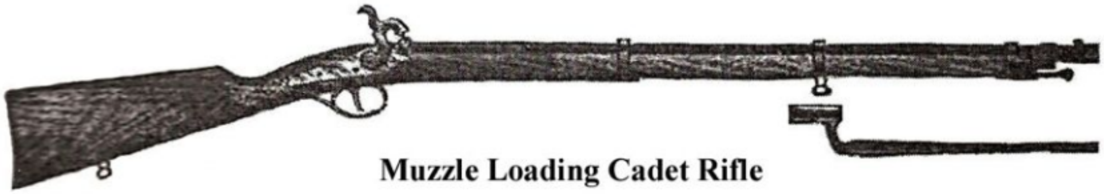


Remington Cadet Rifle

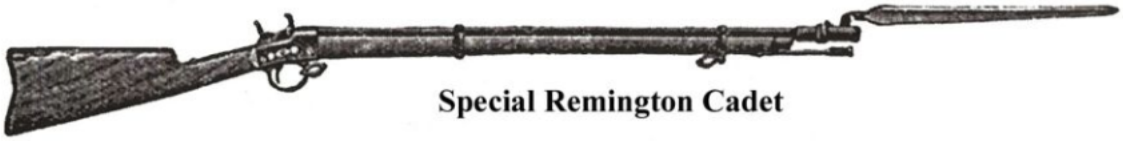
Manufactured Muskets



Flobert Cadet Rifle

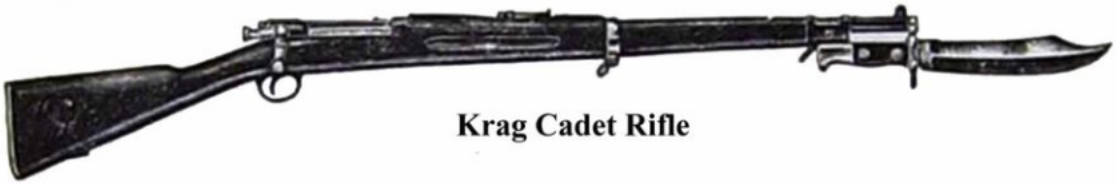


Muzzle Loading Cadet Rifle

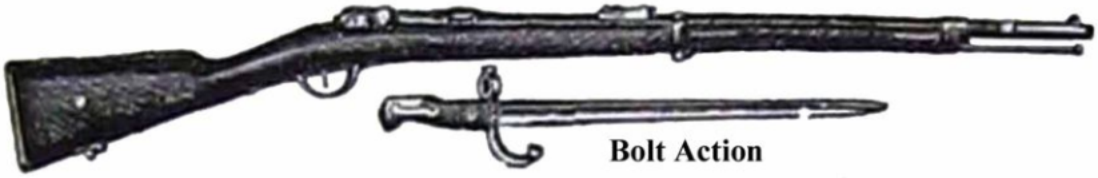


Special Remington Cadet

Bolt Action Rifles

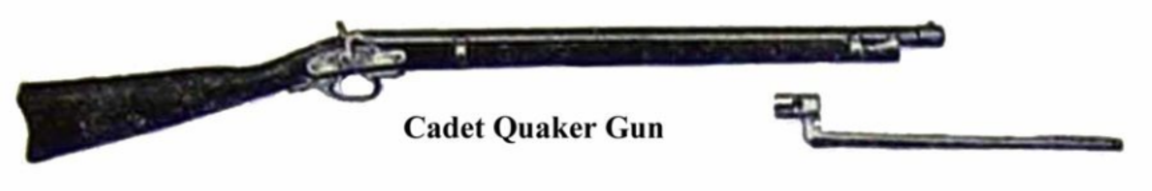


Krag Cadet Rifle



Bolt Action

Quaker Guns



Boys Brigade

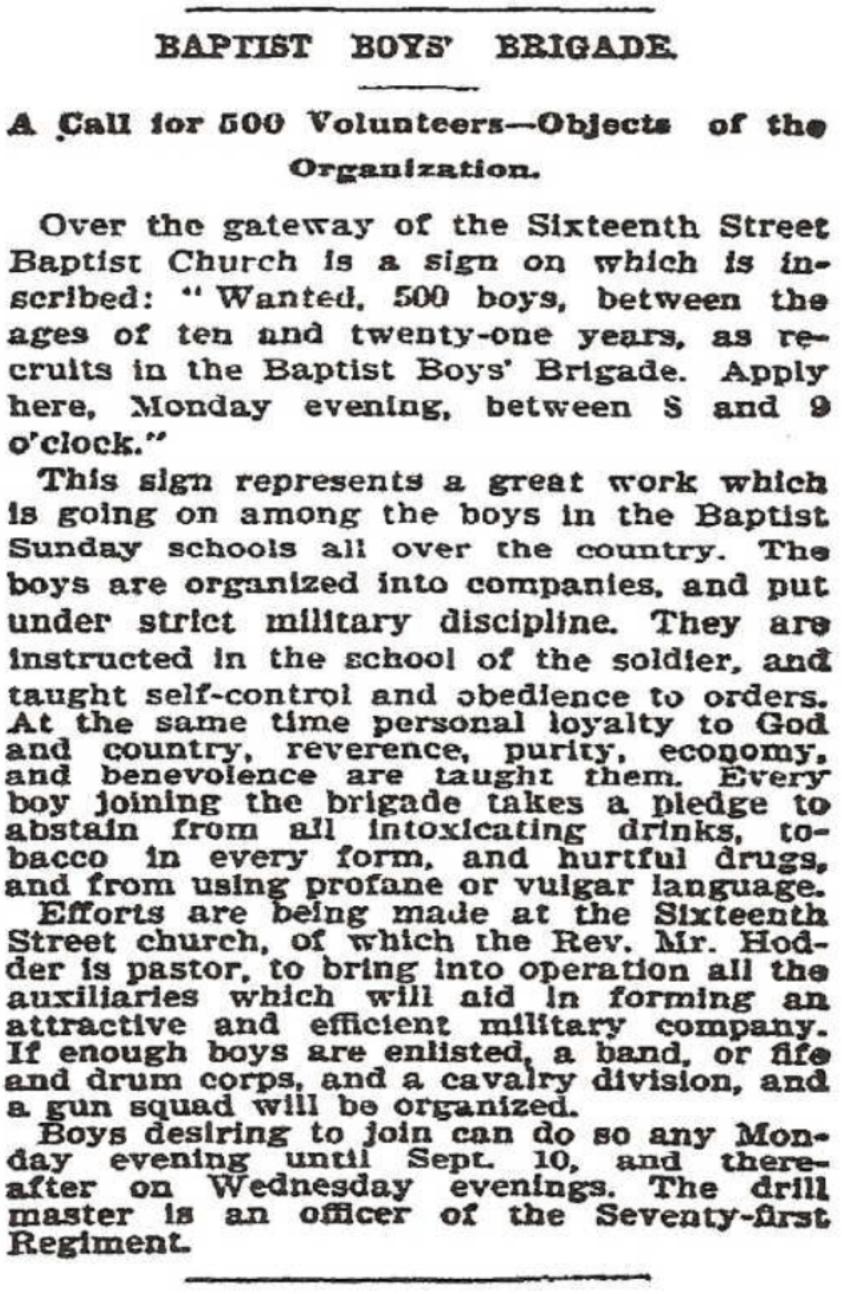
The first Boys Brigade was started by Sir William Alexander Smith on October 4, 1883 at Free Church Mission Hall, Glasgow, Scotland. His purpose was to develop “Christian manliness” by the use of semi-military discipline and order. He desired to promote habits of obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect in the young men of his church. This program was designed for boys 10 to 21 years of age. The Boys Brigade rapidly expanded in the United Kingdom and eventually reached around the world. At the turn of the century it involved tens of thousands of young men.

The young men had simple uniforms comprised of a jacket, tie, trousers, white haversack and a pill box hat. During the early years of this organization dummy rifles were used for military drill. This practice was discontinued following WWI. The Boys Brigade promoted such activities as patriotic parades, athletic contests between Companies and service projects.

The Boys Brigade was organized much like the military. It was broken up into Regions, Districts, Battalions and Companies. The leadership was comprised of Warrant Officers who were adults who had undergone special training. Older boys who had received special training could become officers and all held the rank of Lieutenant. Each post had one Captain who reverted to a Lieutenant at the end of his tour of duty. The older boys also held the Non-Commissioned Officer rank based partly on age. The minimum age for each rank was as follows. Lance Corporal -age 14, Corporal - age 15, Sergeant - age 16, Staff Sergeant -age 17. All ranks wore appropriate rank insignia or chevrons.

There was a central organization that published the Boys Brigade Gazette. This was a sophisticated newsletter that described the Boys Brigade activities form all regions of the world. It should be note that the Boys Brigade is still in existence but is significantly modernized from its early beginnings.

The American Region of the Boys Brigade was started in August of 1894 with a call from the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in New York City for 500 volunteers to form the Baptist Boys Brigade.



BAPTIST BOYS' BRIGADE.

A Call for 500 Volunteers—Objects of the Organization.

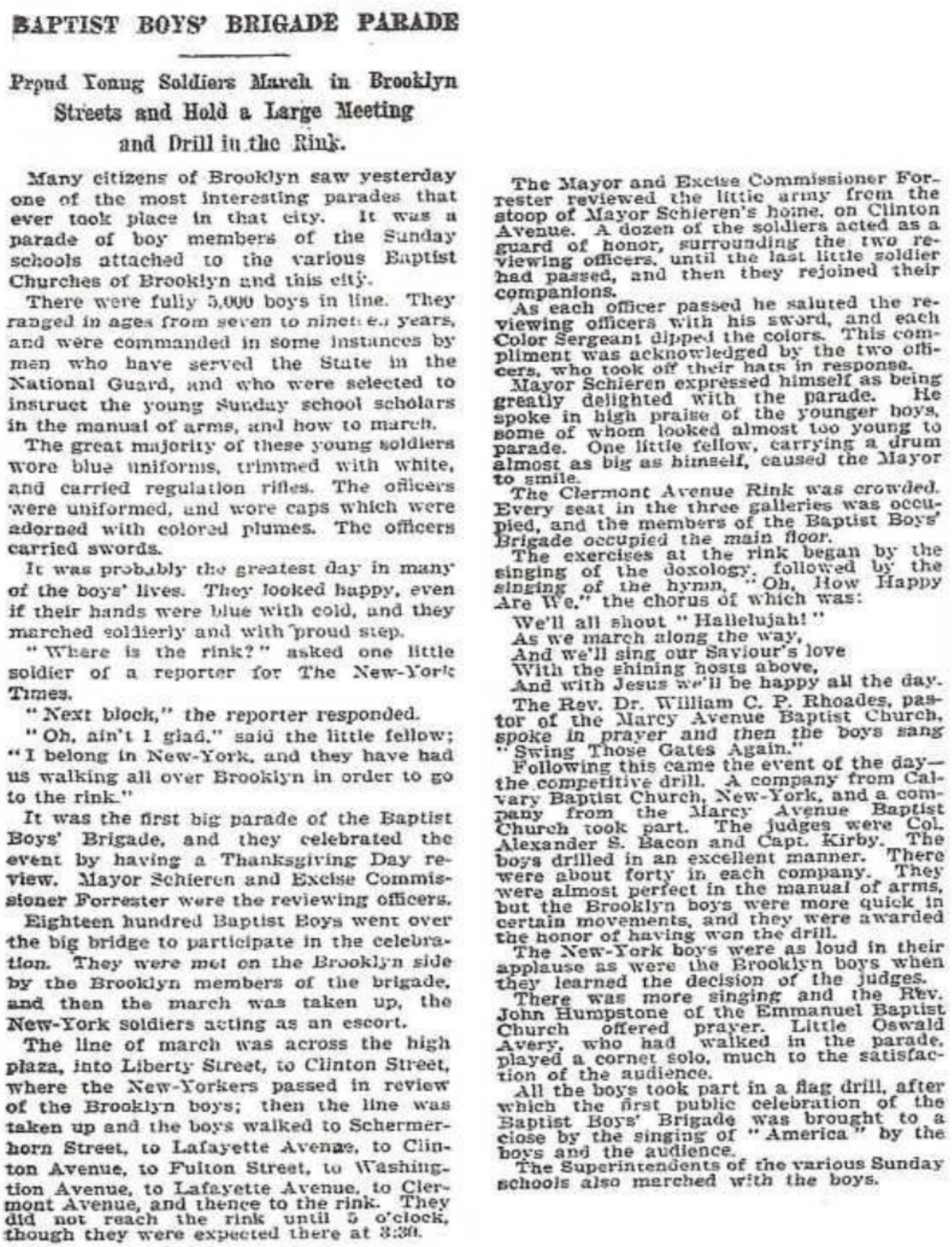
Over the gateway of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church is a sign on which is inscribed: "Wanted, 500 boys, between the ages of ten and twenty-one years, as recruits in the Baptist Boys' Brigade. Apply here, Monday evening, between 8 and 9 o'clock."

This sign represents a great work which is going on among the boys in the Baptist Sunday schools all over the country. The boys are organized into companies, and put under strict military discipline. They are instructed in the school of the soldier, and taught self-control and obedience to orders. At the same time personal loyalty to God and country, reverence, purity, economy, and benevolence are taught them. Every boy joining the brigade takes a pledge to abstain from all intoxicating drinks, tobacco in every form, and hurtful drugs, and from using profane or vulgar language.

Efforts are being made at the Sixteenth Street church, of which the Rev. Mr. Hodder is pastor, to bring into operation all the auxiliaries which will aid in forming an attractive and efficient military company. If enough boys are enlisted, a band, or fife and drum corps, and a cavalry division, and a gun squad will be organized.

Boys desiring to join can do so any Monday evening until Sept. 10, and thereafter on Wednesday evenings. The drill master is an officer of the Seventy-first Regiment.

August 18, 1894



BAPTIST BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE

Proud Young Soldiers March in Brooklyn Streets and Hold a Large Meeting and Drill in the Rink.

Many citizens of Brooklyn saw yesterday one of the most interesting parades that ever took place in that city. It was a parade of boy members of the Sunday schools attached to the various Baptist Churches of Brooklyn and this city.

There were fully 5,000 boys in line. They ranged in ages from seven to nineteen years, and were commanded in some instances by men who have served the State in the National Guard, and who were selected to instruct the young Sunday school scholars in the manual of arms, and how to march.

The great majority of these young soldiers wore blue uniforms, trimmed with white, and carried regulation rifles. The officers were uniformed, and wore caps which were adorned with colored plumes. The officers carried swords.

It was probably the greatest day in many of the boys' lives. They looked happy, even if their hands were blue with cold, and they marched soldierly and with proud step.

"Where is the rink?" asked one little soldier of a reporter for The New-York Times.

"Next block," the reporter responded.

"Oh, ain't I glad," said the little fellow; "I belong in New-York, and they have had us walking all over Brooklyn in order to go to the rink."

It was the first big parade of the Baptist Boys' Brigade, and they celebrated the event by having a Thanksgiving Day review. Mayor Schieren and Excise Commissioner Forrester were the reviewing officers.

Eighteen hundred Baptist Boys went over the big bridge to participate in the celebration. They were met on the Brooklyn side by the Brooklyn members of the brigade, and then the march was taken up, the New-York soldiers acting as an escort.

The line of march was across the high plaza, into Liberty Street, to Clinton Street, where the New-Yorkers passed in review of the Brooklyn boys; then the line was taken up and the boys walked to Schermerhorn Street, to Lafayette Avenue, to Clinton Avenue, to Fulton Street, to Washington Avenue, to Lafayette Avenue, to Clermont Avenue, and thence to the rink. They did not reach the rink until 5 o'clock, though they were expected there at 3:30.

The Mayor and Excise Commissioner Forrester reviewed the little army from the stoop of Mayor Schieren's home, on Clinton Avenue. A dozen of the soldiers acted as a guard of honor, surrounding the two reviewing officers, until the last little soldier had passed, and then they rejoined their companions.

As each officer passed he saluted the reviewing officers with his sword, and each Color Sergeant dipped the colors. This compliment was acknowledged by the two officers, who took off their hats in response.

Mayor Schieren expressed himself as being greatly delighted with the parade. He spoke in high praise of the younger boys, some of whom looked almost too young to parade. One little fellow, carrying a drum almost as big as himself, caused the Mayor to smile.

The Clermont Avenue Rink was crowded. Every seat in the three galleries was occupied, and the members of the Baptist Boys' Brigade occupied the main floor.

The exercises at the rink began by the singing of the doxology, followed by the singing of the hymn, "Oh, How Happy Are We," the chorus of which was:

We'll all shout "Hallelujah!"
As we march along the way,
And we'll sing our Saviour's love
With the shining hosts above,
And with Jesus we'll be happy all the day.

The Rev. Dr. William C. P. Rhoades, pastor of the Marcy Avenue Baptist Church, spoke in prayer and then the boys sang "Swing Those Gates Again."

Following this came the event of the day—the competitive drill. A company from Calvary Baptist Church, New-York, and a company from the Marcy Avenue Baptist Church took part. The judges were Col. Alexander S. Bacon and Capt. Kirby. The boys drilled in an excellent manner. There were about forty in each company. They were almost perfect in the manual of arms, but the Brooklyn boys were more quick in certain movements, and they were awarded the honor of having won the drill.

The New-York boys were as loud in their applause as were the Brooklyn boys when they learned the decision of the judges.

There was more singing and the Rev. John Humpstone of the Emmanuel Baptist Church offered prayer. Little Oswald Avery, who had walked in the parade, played a cornet solo, much to the satisfaction of the audience.

All the boys took part in a flag drill, after which the first public celebration of the Baptist Boys' Brigade was brought to a close by the singing of "America" by the boys and the audience.

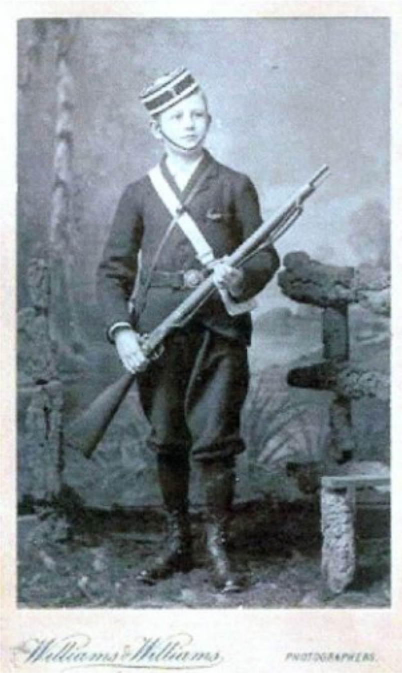
The Superintendents of the various Sunday schools also marched with the boys.

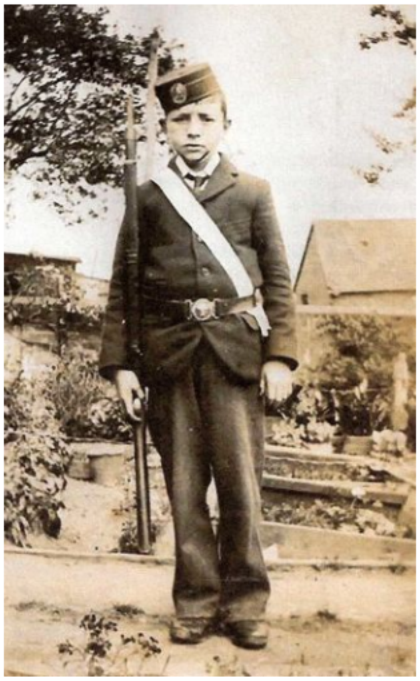
November 30, 1894

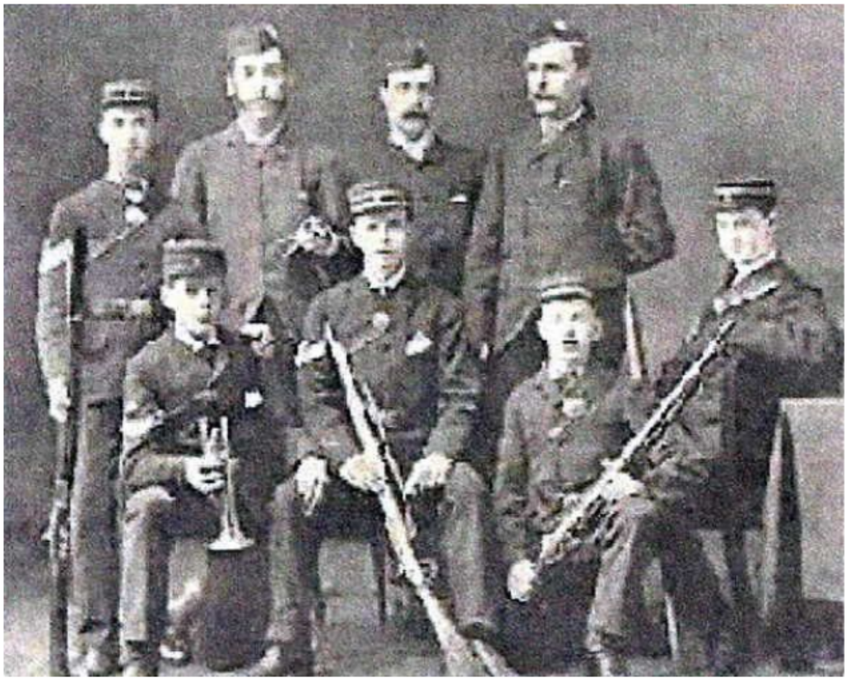
The Boys Brigade appears to have been non-sectarian involving all branches of the Christian Church. You will find references to Catholic and Protestant Boys Brigades. Current references to the Baptist Boys Brigade tend to refer to all early Boys Brigade units in the United States. Of particular interest to me is the fact that Francis Bannerman sold a considerable number of non-firing drill rifles to Boys Brigade units. There is very little documentation relating to these drill rifles. The following photographs can be found on the Glesca Pals web site.

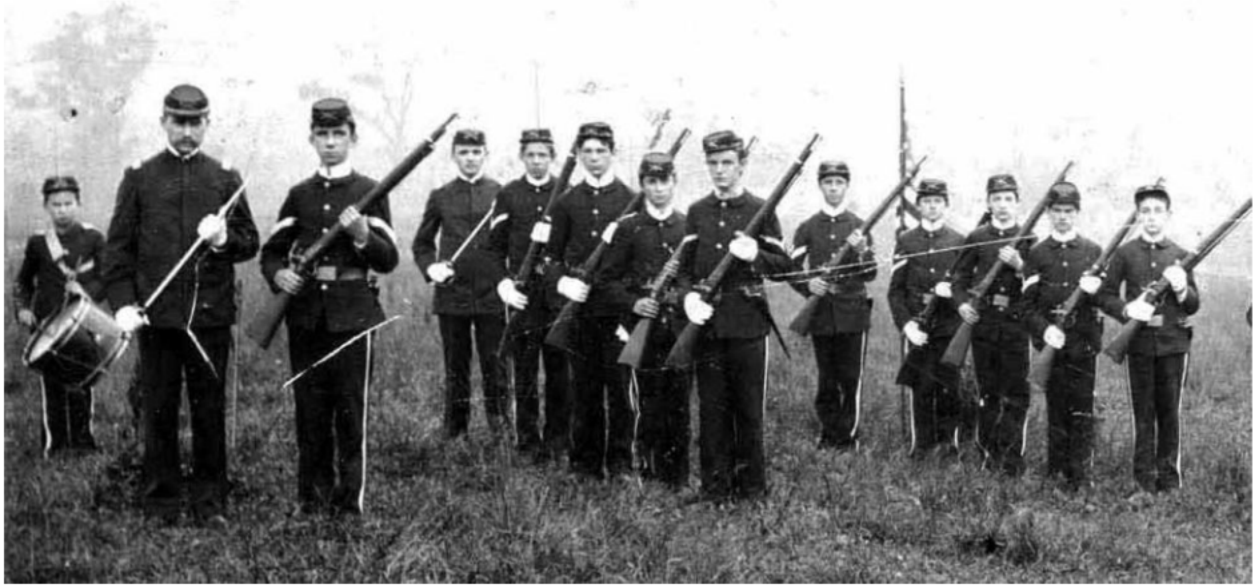
http://www.glesga.ukpals.com/BB/bbrifle.htm

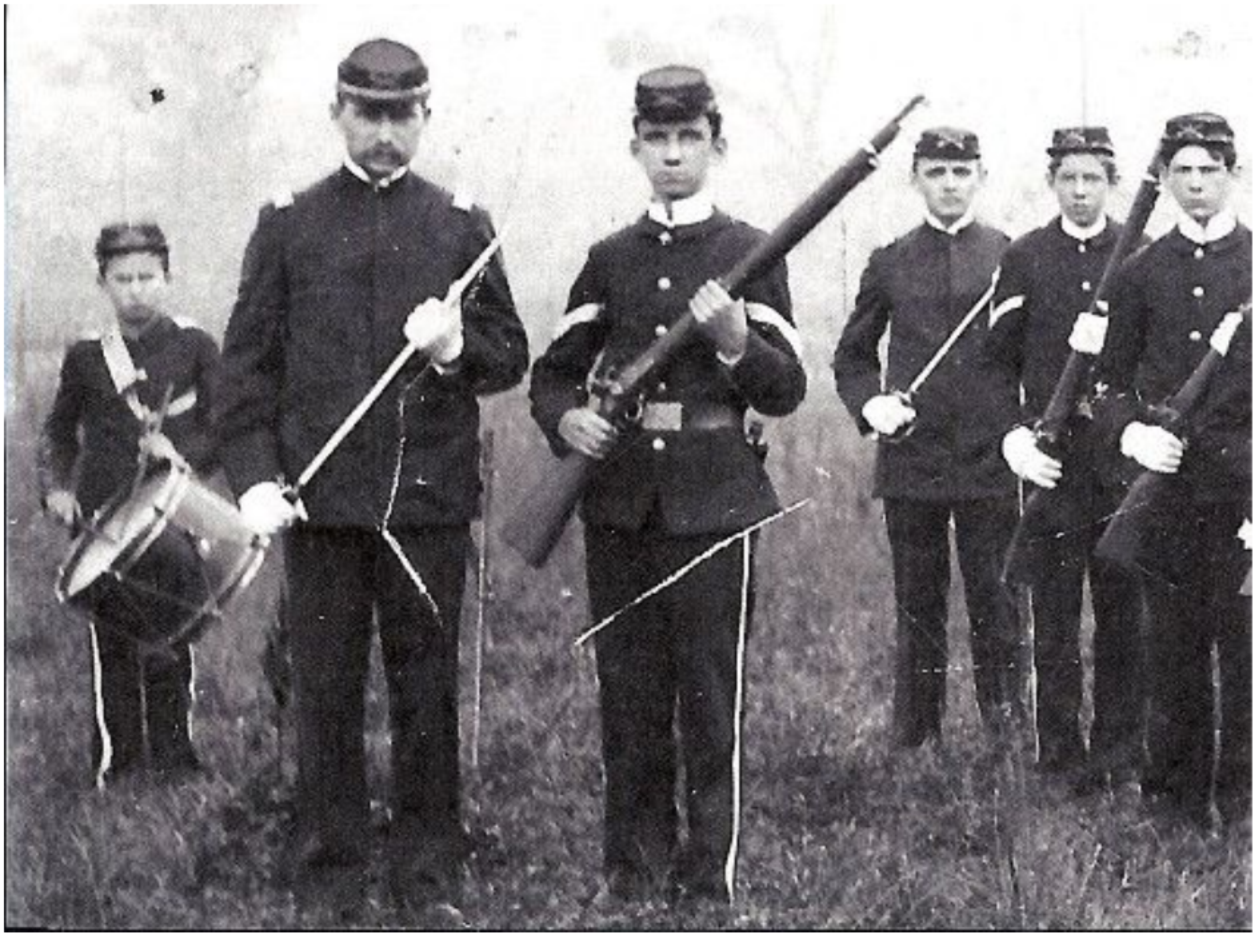
They are excellent examples of the type of uniforms and non-firing drill rifles that were in use from 1883 - 1918 by Boys Brigade members.



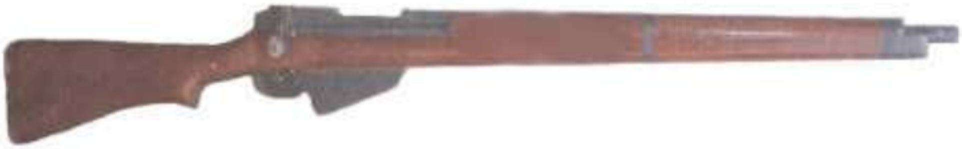




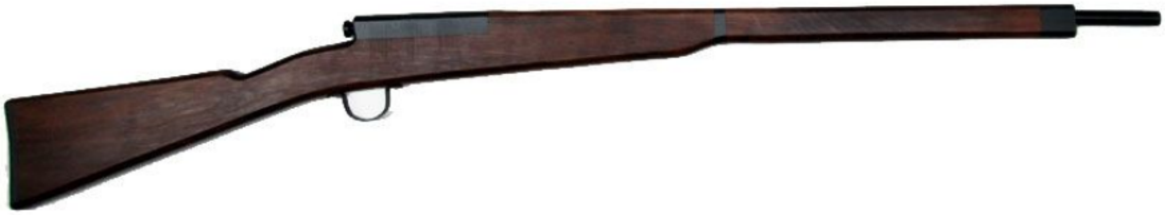




Of particular interest is the photo of a very refined SMLE dummy rifle. Several of these replica wooden rifle were borrowed from a Boys Brigade Company to be used in the 195th Glasgow company display in the centenary year, 1983. No information is available that would indicate their origin. Since the SMLE rifle was adopted in 1902, it seems probable that they were produced between 1902 and 1918 when the Boys Brigades discontinued the use of drill rifles. However, it is also possible that they were specially made at a later date for some ceremonial purpose.

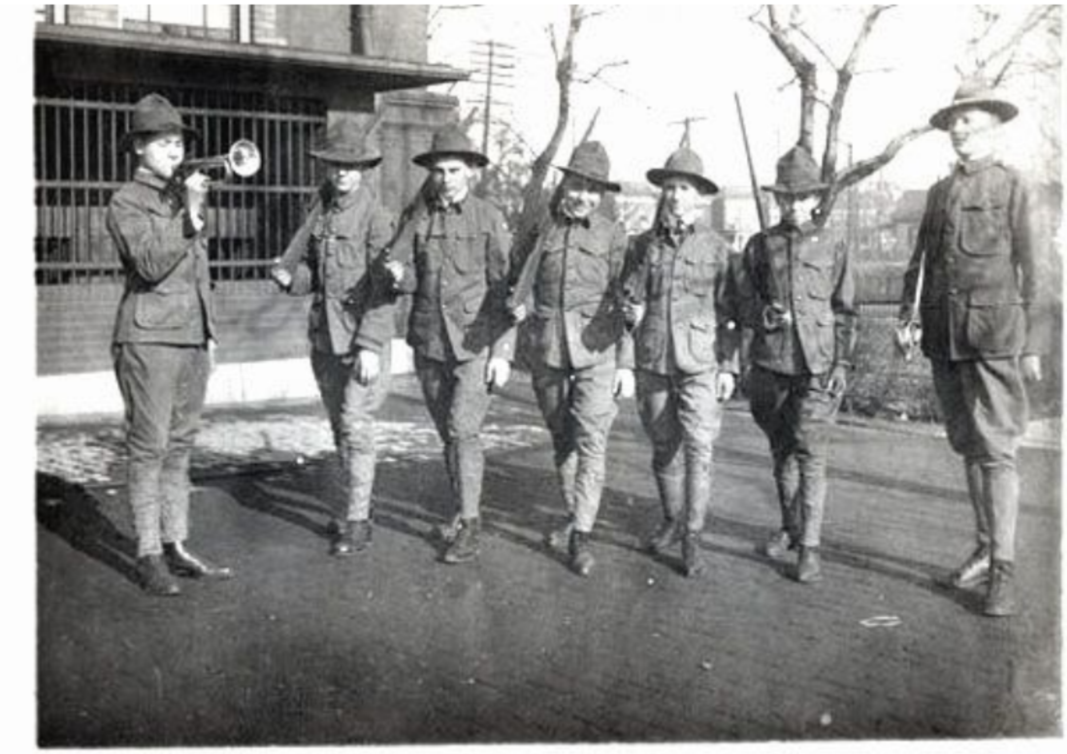


There is a wealth of detailed information relating to the Boys Brigade on the internet. The current Boys Brigade web site is: http://www.boys-brigade.org.uk



The two photographs show a group of young boys drilling in uniform. Since they have no insignia it seems probable that they are a group of the American Boys Brigade. Their uniforms would indicate that these photographs were taken about 1900. It is probable that these wooden drill rifles were made for this Boys Brigade unit and were produced in a very small number. It is unfortunate that these photos are not marked with some identification.

The guns are made from a 3/4" board with a short piece of dowel for a barrel. Although they have a metal trigger guard they have no moving parts. They are generally patterned after the Krag or 03 Springfield. They have no bolt handle and are shorter than the standard rifle.



Francis (Frank) Bannerman

The Federal Census records show that Francis was his correct given name. He was a decedent from a long line of Scottish ancestors who named their first born son Francis. He was Francis Bannerman VI. He was called Frank by friends and family but used the name Francis in his business. He was born March 24, 1851, in Scotland.

The Bannerman family came to America in 1854 and located in Brooklyn, NY. His father (Frank V) started a business selling scrap materials that he acquired at Navy auctions. When the Civil War broke out his father joined the Union Navy and was somewhat disabled upon returning to civilian life. Francis quit school while his father was in the Navy in order to better provide for the family and took a job running errands for a law office. After work he would scavenge junk at the Navy Yard near his home and sell it for scrap. Upon returning home from the Navy his father opened a small storehouse at 18 Little Street where he sold Navy surplus that he bought at auction. In 1867 he moved to a larger store and warehouse at 14 Atlantic Ave. in Brooklyn. In 1872 Francis took over the business and started attending Army and Navy auctions and started buying surplus military goods of all kinds. At first he was selling these items as scrap but soon realized that they had real value as usable items.

About this time he began to publish a 12 page catalog that listed some of the items that he had for sale. This catalog had no price listed so that it could be used for a period of time. It is unknown exactly when the first catalog was printed but Bannermans published a 100 year catalog in 1966. It must be assumed that he had started the catalog while his father was still involved in the business. In his later catalogs it states that the business was stated in 1865.

His business kept expanding and in 1889 he moved to a building at 118 Broad Street in New York City. His first real catalog was published in 1889 and it was larger in size (5 1/2" x 8 1/2") and had more detailed information and the goods were priced.

I have never seen a catalog earlier than 1888 but in that catalog there are three Cadet rifles listed. They were as follows.

US Springfield Cadet Rifle   58 caliber, 30 inch barrel, O.L. 44 inches

US Springfield Breech-Loading Cadet Rifle   45-70 caliber, 29 ½ inch barrel, O.L. 47 inches

Ballard Breech Loading Cadet Rifle   54 caliber, 28 inches, O.L. 45 inches

In the 1889 catalog they list the same three rifles and also a Cadet Flint-Lock Gun with a barrel length of 29 inches and O.L. 42 inches. It is interesting to note that the last listing of a cadet rifle appeared in the 1925 catalog. It was a gun that was manufactured in Europe rather than made from a modified military firearm. This Cadet Rifle first appeared in the 1900 catalog.

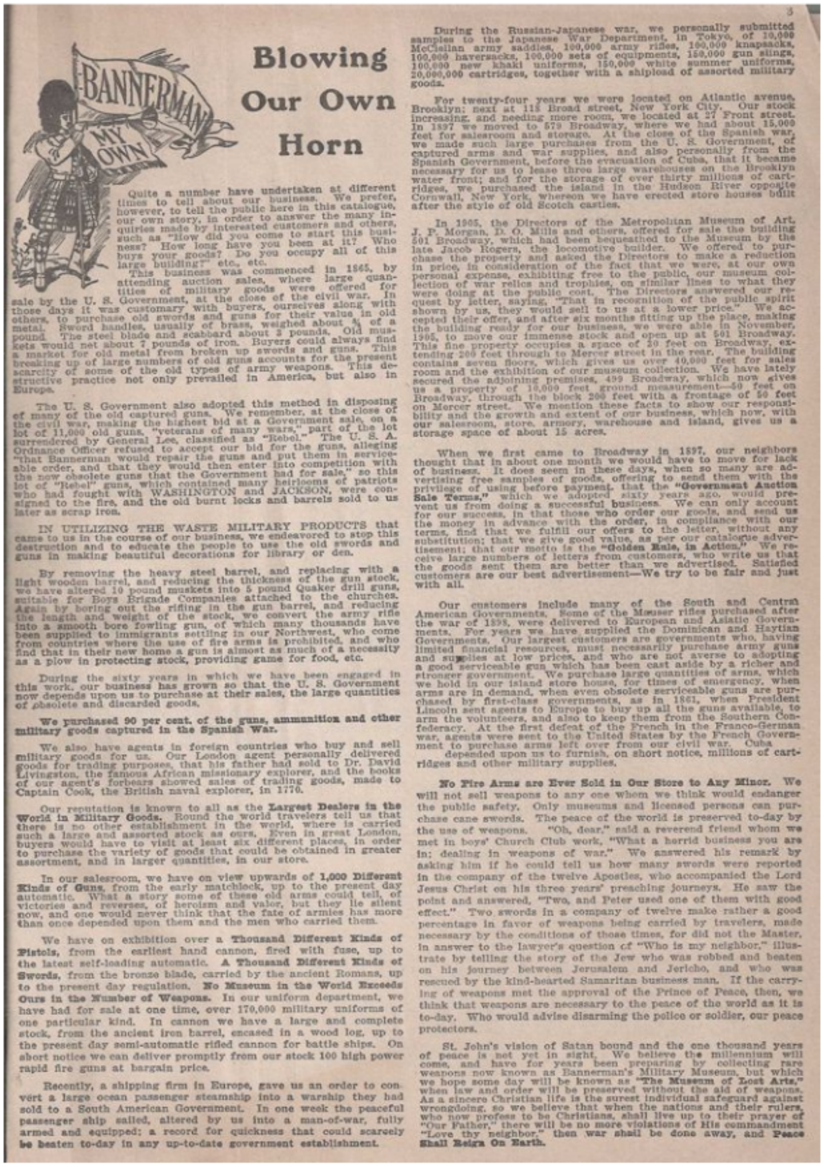
As his business continued to grow, in 1897 he moved to 570 Broadway in NYC and in 1900 he purchased what became Bannerman's Island in the Hudson river. He started work on building a huge castle and a private residence on the island and this work continued for 18 years. This gave him a secure storage facility away from the city for explosives.

In 1905 a larger facility at 501 Broadway became available and he moved again. He had retained the buildings and land at 14 Atlantic Ave. in Brooklyn and purchased additional warehousing near the Brooklyn Navy Yard. This gave him a huge amount of space for the business. At this point he could provide cannons for a naval vessel or 15000 stand of arms on a moment's notice. He was the largest military surplus operation in the world and his Broadway store was a veritable museum of military artifacts from all over the world.

Francis Bannerman died in 1918 and sons Frank and David took over the business.

Frank died in 1945 and David in 1957, leaving the business to a grandson Charles. The Broadway store was closed in 1959 and the business moved to Blue Point, Long Island. The Blue Point store was quite small and specialized in selling gun parts. In 1967, Charles sold Bannerman's Island to the New York Taconic State Park Commission. A mysterious fire burned the Castle on August 8, 1969. The Bannerman business was finally sold and closed its doors in 1970.

Most of the later Bannerman catalogs had a one page history called "Blowing Our Own Horn", that is a good example of his promotional ability. His catalogs were widely advertised in pulp and sporting goods magazines. Bannerman Catalogs have been of great interest to gun collectors and sportsman for the past 125 years.


BANNERMAN
MY OWN
3

Blowing Our Own Horn

Quite a number have undertaken at different times to tell about our business. We prefer, however, to tell the public here in this catalogue, our own story, in order to answer the many inquiries made by interested customers and others, such as "How did you come to start this business? How long have you been at it? Who buys your goods? Do you occupy all of this large building?" etc., etc.

This business was commenced in 1865, by attending auction sales, where large quantities of military goods were offered for sale by the U. S. Government, at the close of the civil war. In those days it was customary with buyers, ourselves along with others, to purchase old swords and guns for their value in old metal. Sword handles, usually of brass, weighed about ¾ of a pound. The steel blade and scabbard about 3 pounds. Old muskets would net about 7 pounds of iron. Buyers could always find a market for old metal from broken up swords and guns. This breaking up of large numbers of old guns accounts for the present scarcity of some of the old types of army weapons. This destructive practice not only prevailed in America, but also in Europe.

The U. S. Government also adopted this method in disposing of many of the old captured guns. We remember, at the close of the civil war, making the highest bid at a Government sale, on a lot of 11,000 old guns, "veterans of many wars," part of the lot surrendered by General Lee, classified as "Rebel." The U. S. A. Ordnance Officer refused to accept our bid for the guns, alleging "that Bannerman would repair the guns and put them in serviceable order, and that they would then enter into competition with the now obsolete guns that the Government had for sale," so this lot of "Rebel" guns, which contained many heirlooms of patriots who had fought with WASHINGTON and JACKSON, were consigned to the fire, and the old burnt locks and barrels sold to us later as scrap iron.

IN UTILIZING THE WASTE MILITARY PRODUCTS that came to us in the course of our business, we endeavored to stop this destruction and to educate the people to use the old swords and guns in making beautiful decorations for library or den.

By removing the heavy steel barrel, and replacing with a light wooden barrel, and reducing the thickness of the gun stock, we have altered 10 pound muskets into 5 pound Quaker drill guns, suitable for Boys Brigade Companies attached to the churches. Again by boring out the rifling in the gun barrel, and reducing the length and weight of the stock, we convert the army rifle into a smooth bore fowling gun, of which many thousands have been supplied to immigrants settling in our Northwest, who come from countries where the use of fire arms is prohibited, and who find that in their new home a gun is almost as much of a necessity as a plow in protecting stock, providing game for food, etc.

During the sixty years in which we have been engaged in this work, our business has grown so that the U. S. Government now depends upon us to purchase at their sales, the large quantities of obsolete and discarded goods.

We purchased 90 per cent. of the guns, ammunition and other military goods captured in the Spanish War.

We also have agents in foreign countries who buy and sell military goods for us. Our London agent personally delivered goods for trading purposes, that his father had sold to Dr. David Livingston, the famous African missionary explorer, and the books of our agent's forbears showed sales of trading goods, made to Captain Cook, the British naval explorer, in 1770.

Our reputation is known to all as the **Largest Dealers in the World in Military Goods.** Round the world travelers tell us that there is no other establishment in the world, where is carried such a large and assorted stock as ours. Even in great London, buyers would have to visit at least six different places, in order to purchase the variety of goods that could be obtained in greater assortment, and in larger quantities, in our store.

In our salesroom, we have on view upwards of **1,000 Different Kinds of Guns**, from the early matchlock, up to the present day automatic. What a story some of these old arms could tell, of victories and reverses, of heroism and valor, but they lie silent now, and one would never think that the fate of armies has more than once depended upon them and the men who carried them.

We have on exhibition over a **Thousand Different Kinds of Pistols,** from the earliest hand cannon, fired with fuse, up to the latest self-loading automatic. **A Thousand Different Kinds of Swords,** from the bronze blade, carried by the ancient Romans, up to the present day regulation. **No Museum in the World Exceeds Ours in the Number of Weapons.** In our uniform department, we have had for sale at one time, over 170,000 military uniforms of one particular kind. In cannon we have a large and complete stock, from the ancient iron barrel, encased in a wood log, up to the present day semi-automatic rifled cannon for battle ships. On short notice we can deliver promptly from our stock 100 high power rapid fire guns at bargain price.

Recently, a shipping firm in Europe, gave us an order to convert a large ocean passenger steamship into a warship they had sold to a South American Government. In one week the peaceful passenger ship sailed, altered by us into a man-of-war, fully armed and equipped; a record for quickness that could scarcely be beaten to-day in any up-to-date government establishment.

During the Russian-Japanese war, we personally submitted samples to the Japanese War Department, in Tokyo, of 10,000 McClellan army saddles, 100,000 army rifles, 100,000 knapsacks, 100,000 haversacks, 100,000 sets of equipments, 150,000 gun slings, 100,000 new khaki uniforms, 150,000 white summer uniforms, 20,000,000 cartridges, together with a shipload of assorted military goods.

For twenty-four years we were located on Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn; next at 118 Broad street, New York City. Our stock increasing, and needing more room, we located at 27 Front street. In 1897 we moved to 579 Broadway, where we had about 15,000 feet for salesroom and storage. At the close of the Spanish war, we made such large purchases from the U. S. Government, of captured arms and war supplies, and also personally from the Spanish Government, before the evacuation of Cuba, that it became necessary for us to lease three large warehouses on the Brooklyn water front; and for the storage of over thirty millions of cartridges, we purchased the island in the Hudson River opposite Cornwall, New York, whereon we have erected store houses built after the style of old Scotch castles.

In 1905, the Directors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, J. P. Morgan, D. O. Mills and others, offered for sale the building 501 Broadway, which had been bequeathed to the Museum by the late Jacob Rogers, the locomotive builder. We offered to purchase the property and asked the Directors to make a reduction in price, in consideration of the fact that we were, at our own personal expense, exhibiting free to the public, our museum collection of war relics and trophies, on similar lines to what they were doing at the public cost. The Directors answered our request by letter, saying, "That in recognition of the public spirit shown by us, they would sell to us at a lower price." We accepted their offer, and after six months fitting up the place, making the building ready for our business, we were able in November, 1905, to move our immense stock and open up at 501 Broadway. This fine property occupies a space of 30 feet on Broadway, extending 200 feet through to Mercer street in the rear. The building contains seven floors, which gives us over 40,000 feet for sales room and the exhibition of our museum collection. We have lately secured the adjoining premises, 499 Broadway, which now gives us a property of 10,000 feet ground measurement—50 feet on Broadway, through the block 200 feet with a frontage of 50 feet on Mercer street. We mention these facts to show our responsibility and the growth and extent of our business, which now, with our salesroom, store, armory, warehouse and island, gives us a storage space of about 15 acres.

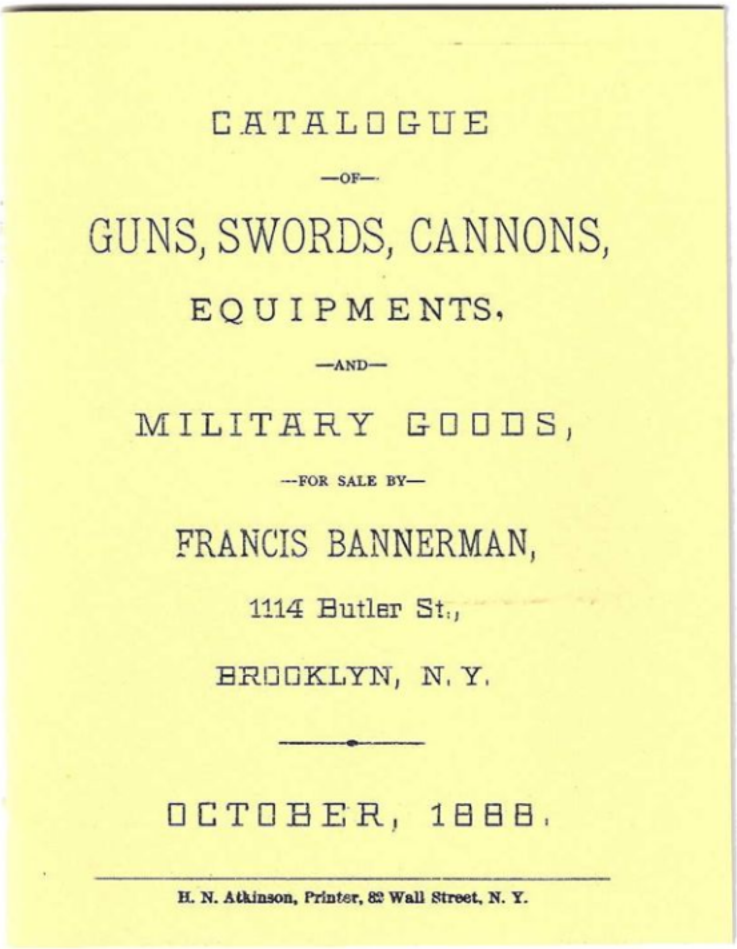
When we first came to Broadway in 1897, our neighbors thought that in about one month we would have to move for lack of business. It does seem in these days, when so many are advertising free samples of goods, offering to send them with the privilege of using before payment, that the **"Government Auction Sale Terms,"** which we adopted sixty years ago, would prevent us from doing a successful business. We can only account for our success, in that those who order our goods, and send us the money in advance with the order, in compliance with our terms, find that we fulfill our offers to the letter, without any substitution; that we give good value, as per our catalogue advertisement; that our motto is the **"Golden Rule, in Action."** We receive large numbers of letters from customers, who write us that the goods sent them are better than we advertised. Satisfied customers are our best advertisement—We try to be fair and just with all.

Our customers include many of the South and Central American Governments. Some of the Mauser rifles purchased after the war of 1898, were delivered to European and Asiatic Governments. For years we have supplied the Dominican and Haytian Governments. Our largest customers are governments who, having limited financial resources, must necessarily purchase army guns and supplies at low prices, and who are not averse to adopting a good serviceable gun which has been cast aside by a richer and stronger government. We purchase large quantities of arms, which we hold in our island store house, for times of emergency, when arms are in demand, when even obsolete serviceable guns are purchased by first-class governments, as in 1861, when President Lincoln sent agents to Europe to buy up all the guns available, to arm the volunteers, and also to keep them from the Southern Confederacy. At the first defeat of the French in the Franco-German war, agents were sent to the United States by the French Government to purchase arms left over from our civil war. Cuba depended upon us to furnish, on short notice, millions of cartridges and other military supplies.

No Fire Arms are Ever Sold in Our Store to Any Minor. We will not sell weapons to any one whom we think would endanger the public safety. Only museums and licensed persons can purchase cane swords. The peace of the world is preserved to-day by the use of weapons. "Oh, dear," said a reverend friend whom we met in boys' Church Club work, "What a horrid business you are in; dealing in weapons of war." We answered his remark by asking him if he could tell us how many swords were reported in the company of the twelve Apostles, who accompanied the Lord Jesus Christ on his three years' preaching journeys. He saw the point and answered, "Two, and Peter used one of them with good effect." Two swords in a company of twelve make rather a good percentage in favor of weapons being carried by travelers, made necessary by the conditions of those times, for did not the Master, in answer to the lawyer's question of "Who is my neighbor," illustrate by telling the story of the Jew who was robbed and beaten on his journey between Jerusalem and Jericho, and who was rescued by the kind-hearted Samaritan business man. If the carrying of weapons met the approval of the Prince of Peace, then, we think that weapons are necessary to the peace of the world as it is to-day. Who would advise disarming the police or soldier, our peace protectors.

St. John's vision of Satan bound and the one thousand years of peace is not yet in sight. We believe the millennium will come, and have for years been preparing by collecting rare weapons now known as Bannerman's Military Museum, but which we hope some day will be known as **"The Museum of Lost Arts,"** when law and order will be preserved without the aid of weapons. As a sincere Christian life is the surest individual safeguard against wrongdoing, so we believe that when the nations and their rulers, who now profess to be Christians, shall live up to their prayer of "Our Father," there will be no more violations of His commandment "Love thy neighbor," then war shall be done away, and **Peace Shall Reign On Earth.**

The following 1888 Bannerman catalog is representative of their early catalogs. This is a small (4 x 5 1/2") 12 page booklet that has a brief description of a few military items and a blank space to write in the price of item. These early catalogs had no illustrations. The lack of a printed price allowed for a price change without reprinting the catalog. This also indicates that this catalog format was probably used between 1865 and 1888. It is uncertain when the first catalog was printed, but it was very likely soon after he started business in 1865.



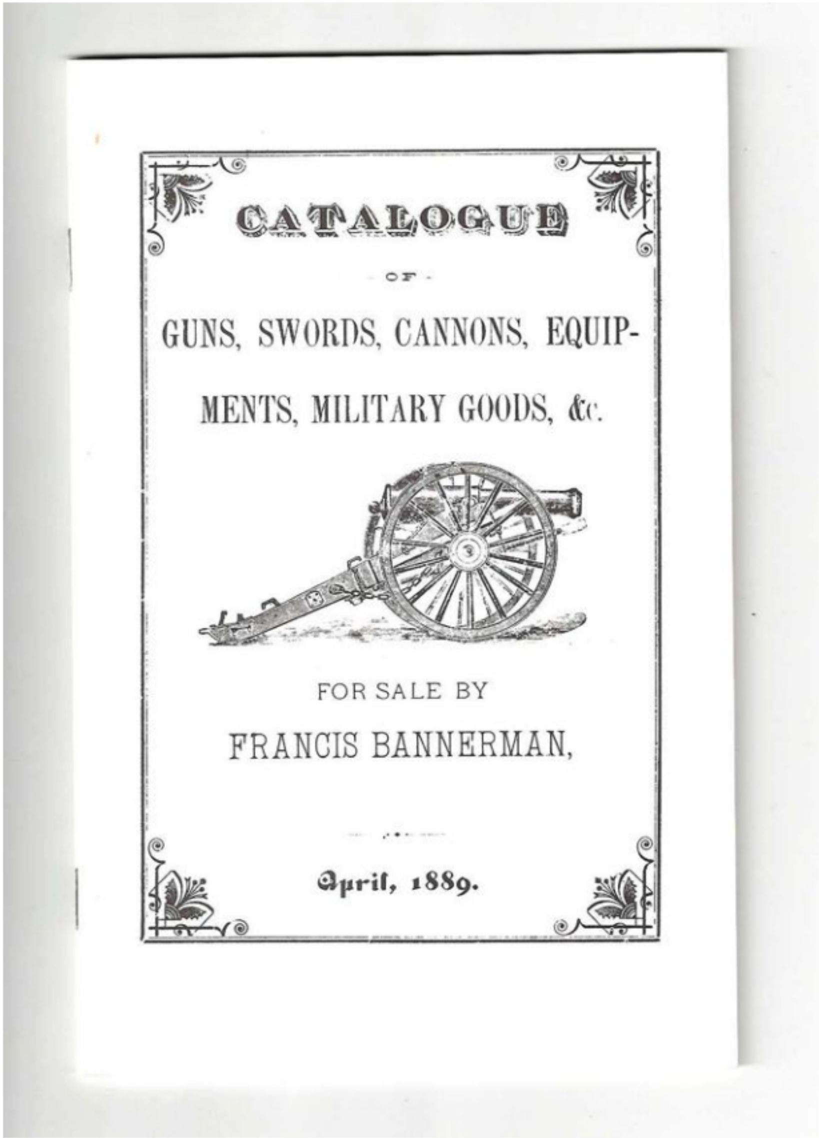
CATALOGUE
—OF—
GUNS, SWORDS, CANNONS,
EQUIPMENTS,
—AND—
MILITARY GOODS,
—FOR SALE BY—
FRANCIS BANNERMAN,
1114 Butler St.,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

OCTOBER, 1888.

H. N. Atkinson, Printer, 82 Wall Street, N. Y.

1888 Bannerman Catalog Cover

The first illustrated catalog was produced in 1889. This catalog had 25 pages that were 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" in size.



CATALOGUE

- OF -

GUNS, SWORDS, CANNONS, EQUIPMENTS, MILITARY GOODS, &c.

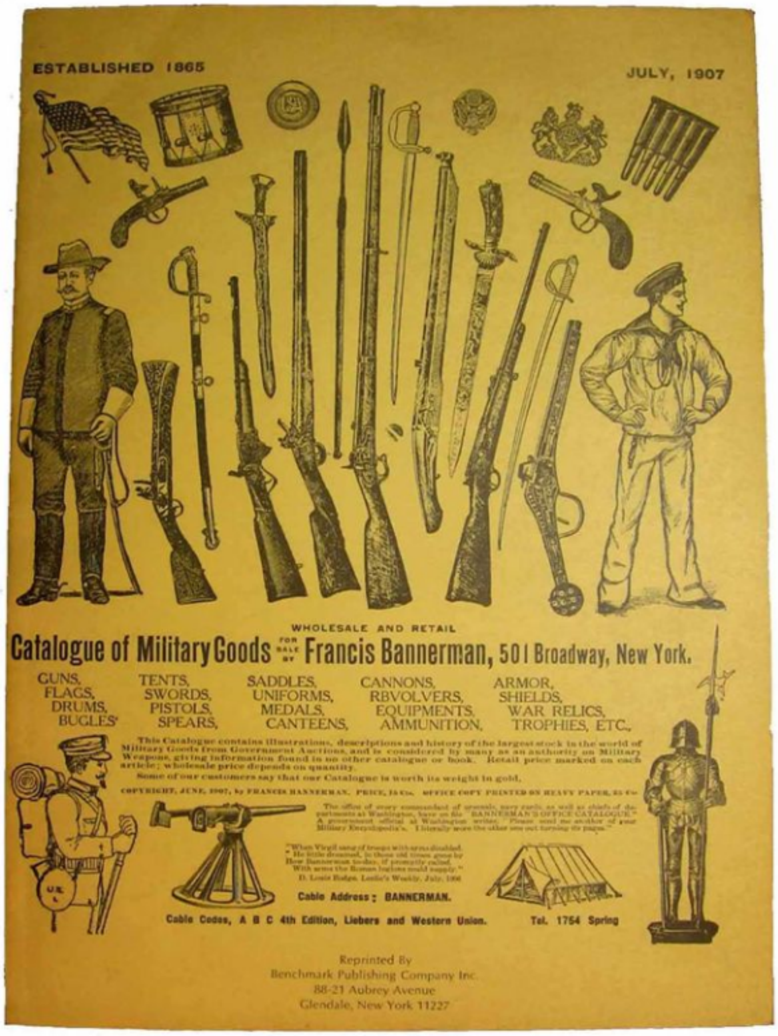
FOR SALE BY

FRANCIS BANNERMAN,

April, 1889.

1889 Bannerman Catalog Cover

In 1907 the catalog was 7 x 10" in size and had grown to 259 pages.



ESTABLISHED 1865

JULY, 1907

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

Catalogue of Military Goods FOR SALE BY **Francis Bannerman, 501 Broadway, New York.**

GUNS,
FLAGS,
DRUMS,
BUGLES'
TENTS,
SWORDS,
PISTOLS,
SPEARS,
SADDLES,
UNIFORMS,
MEDALS,
CANTEENS,
CANNONS,
RBVOLVERS,
EQUIPMENTS,
AMMUNITION,
ARMOR,
SHIELDS,
WAR RELICS,
TROPHIES, ETC.,

This Catalogue contains illustrations, descriptions and history of the largest stock in the world of Military Goods from Government Auctions, and is considered by many as an authority on Military Weapons, giving information found in no other catalogue or book. Retail price marked on each article; wholesale price depends on quantity.

Some of our customers say that our Catalogue is worth its weight in gold.

COPYRIGHT, JUNE, 1907, by FRANCIS BANNERMAN. PRICE, 15 Cts. OFFICE COPY PRINTED ON HEAVY PAPER, 25 Cts.

Cable Address: BANNERMAN.

Cable Codes, A B C 4th Edition, Liebers and Western Union.

Tel. 1754 Spring

Reprinted By
Benchmark Publishing Company Inc.
88-21 Aubrey Avenue
Glendale, New York 11227

1907 Bannerman Catalog Cover

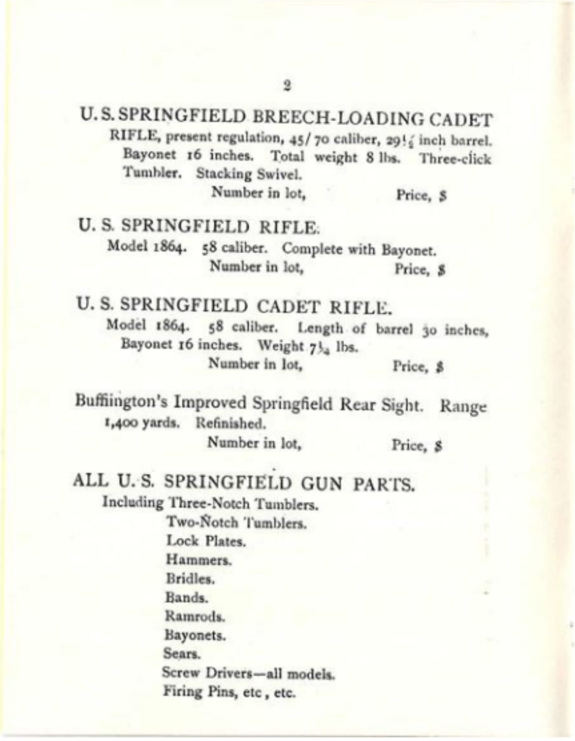
It is uncertain when Bannerman first produced a catalog. They indicate in all of the catalogs that the company founded in 1865. This coincides with the1940 #25 catalog being issued on their 75th anniversary. Between the time of their first catalog (probably 1865) and 1888 all of the catalogs had only 10-15 pages and were printed in a 4 x 5-1/2 inch format. The 1889 catalog had 25 pages and was printed in a 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 format. In 1900 the catalog had about the same number of pages but was somewhat more detailed and printed in a 7 x 10 format. By 1903 the catalog had grown to 112 pages and was printed in a 8 x 11 format. From 1903 through 1966 all of the catalogs were either 8 x 11 or 8-1/2 x 11 inches in size. By1910 the catalog had grown to have 342 pages and reached a record high number of 366 pages in the middle 1930's. All of the catalogs were dated by year but only a few were sequentially numbered. Catalogs for the years 1945, 46, and 47 all appear to be identical.

There is little information available relating to the years a catalog was produced, but I have verified that the following 26 catalogs exist. I am reasonably certain that the eight years shown from 1940 through 1966 were the only catalogs produced during that time period. It seems probable that the six missing years were from the 1865 - 1899 time period. These years would have been produced in a very small quantity, making them very rare today.

1888
1889
1900
1903
1904
1907
1909
1910
1913
1917
1923
1925
1927
1929

1931
1933
1936
1938
1940 #25 -75th anniversary
1945
1946
1947
1949
1954 #28
1955
1966 100th anniversary

In the 1888 catalog there are three drill or training rifles that are identified as "Cadet Rifles". There is little information relating to these rifles but by looking at the same rifles in the 1889 catalog there is a more detailed description. It is certain that they were designed for Military School or Boys Brigade use.



2

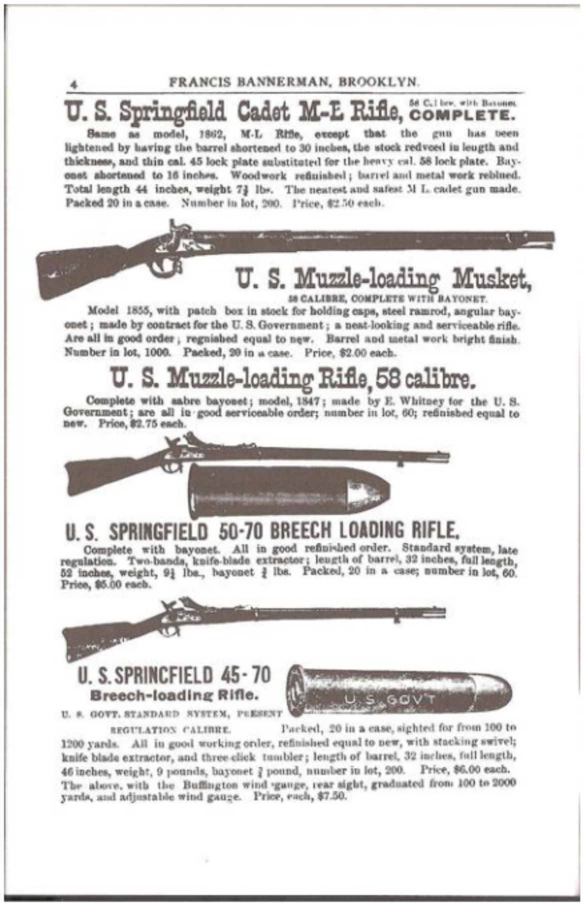
U. S. SPRINGFIELD BREECH-LOADING CADET RIFLE, present regulation, 45/70 caliber, 29½ inch barrel. Bayonet 16 inches. Total weight 8 lbs. Three-click Tumbler. Stacking Swivel.
Number in lot, Price, $

U. S. SPRINGFIELD RIFLE.
Model 1864. 58 caliber. Complete with Bayonet.
Number in lot, Price, $

U. S. SPRINGFIELD CADET RIFLE.
Model 1864. 58 caliber. Length of barrel 30 inches, Bayonet 16 inches. Weight 7¾ lbs.
Number in lot, Price, $

Buffiington's Improved Springfield Rear Sight. Range 1,400 yards. Refinished.
Number in lot, Price, $

ALL U. S. SPRINGFIELD GUN PARTS.
Including Three-Notch Tumblers.
Two-Notch Tumblers.
Lock Plates.
Hammers.
Bridles.
Bands.
Ramrods.
Bayonets.
Sears.
Screw Drivers—all models.
Firing Pins, etc, etc.



4 FRANCIS BANNERMAN, BROOKLYN.

U. S. Springfield Cadet M-L Rifle, 58 Calibre, with Bayonet **COMPLETE.**

Same as model, 1862, M-L Rifle, except that the gun has been lightened by having the barrel shortened to 30 inches, the stock reduced in length and thickness, and thin cal. 45 lock plate substituted for the heavy cal. 58 lock plate. Bayonet shortened to 16 inches. Woodwork refinished; barrel and metal work reblued. Total length 44 inches, weight 7¾ lbs. The neatest and safest M L cadet gun made. Packed 20 in a case. Number in lot, 200. Price, $2.50 each.

U. S. Muzzle-loading Musket,
58 CALIBRE, COMPLETE WITH BAYONET.

Model 1855, with patch box in stock for holding caps, steel ramrod, angular bayonet; made by contract for the U. S. Government; a neat-looking and serviceable rifle. Are all in good order; refinished equal to new. Barrel and metal work bright finish. Number in lot, 1000. Packed, 20 in a case. Price, $2.00 each.

U. S. Muzzle-loading Rifle, 58 calibre.

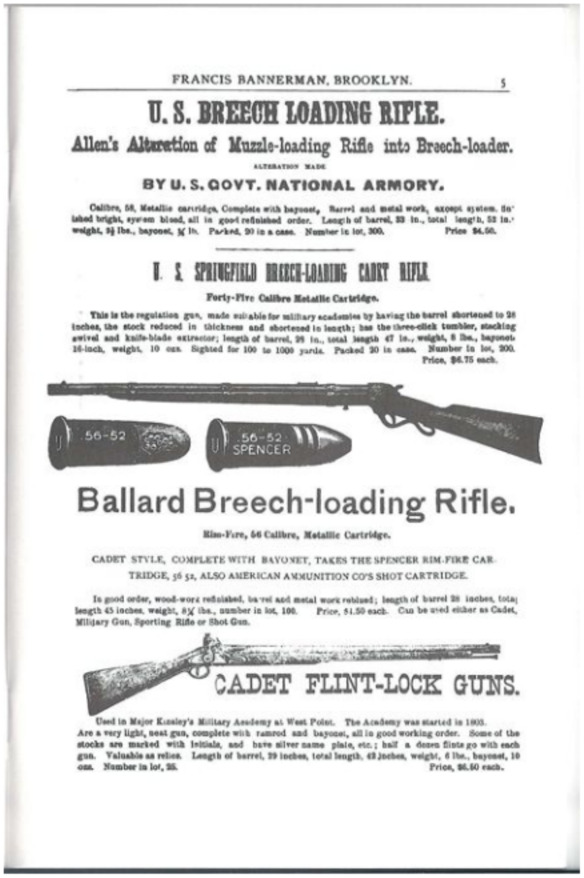
Complete with sabre bayonet; model, 1847; made by E. Whitney for the U. S. Government; are all in good serviceable order; number in lot, 60; refinished equal to new. Price, $2.75 each.

U. S. SPRINGFIELD 50-70 BREECH LOADING RIFLE.

Complete with bayonet. All in good refinished order. Standard system, late regulation. Two-bands, knife-blade extractor; length of barrel, 32 inches, full length, 52 inches, weight, 9¼ lbs., bayonet ¾ lbs. Packed, 20 in a case; number in lot, 60. Price, $5.00 each.

U. S. SPRINGFIELD 45-70
Breech-loading Rifle.
U. S. GOVT. STANDARD SYSTEM, PRESENT REGULATION CALIBRE.

Packed, 20 in a case, sighted for from 100 to 1200 yards. All in good working order, refinished equal to new, with stacking swivel; knife blade extractor, and three-click tumbler; length of barrel, 32 inches, full length, 46 inches, weight, 9 pounds, bayonet ¾ pound, number in lot, 200. Price, $6.00 each. The above, with the Buffington wind-gauge, rear sight, graduated from 100 to 2000 yards, and adjustable wind gauge. Price, each, $7.50.



FRANCIS BANNERMAN, BROOKLYN. 5

U. S. BREECH LOADING RIFLE.
Allen's Alteration of Muzzle-loading Rifle into Breech-loader.
ALTERATION MADE
BY U. S. GOVT. NATIONAL ARMORY.

Calibre, 58, Metallic cartridge, Complete with bayonet, Barrel and metal work, except system, finished bright, system blued, all in good refinished order. Length of barrel, 33 in., total length, 52 in., weight, 9¼ lbs., bayonet, ¾ lb. Packed, 20 in a case. Number in lot, 300. Price $4.50.

U. S. SPRINGFIELD BREECH-LOADING CADET RIFLE
Forty-Five Calibre Metallic Cartridge.

This is the regulation gun, made suitable for military academies by having the barrel shortened to 28 inches, the stock reduced in thickness and shortened in length; has the three-click tumbler, stacking swivel and knife-blade extractor; length of barrel, 28 in., total length 47 in., weight, 8 lbs., bayonet 16-inch, weight, 10 ozs. Sighted for 100 to 1000 yards. Packed 20 in case. Number in lot, 200. Price, $6.75 each.

Ballard Breech-loading Rifle.
Rim-Fire, 56 Calibre, Metallic Cartridge.

CADET STYLE, COMPLETE WITH BAYONET, TAKES THE SPENCER RIM-FIRE CARTRIDGE, 56 52, ALSO AMERICAN AMMUNITION CO'S SHOT CARTRIDGE.

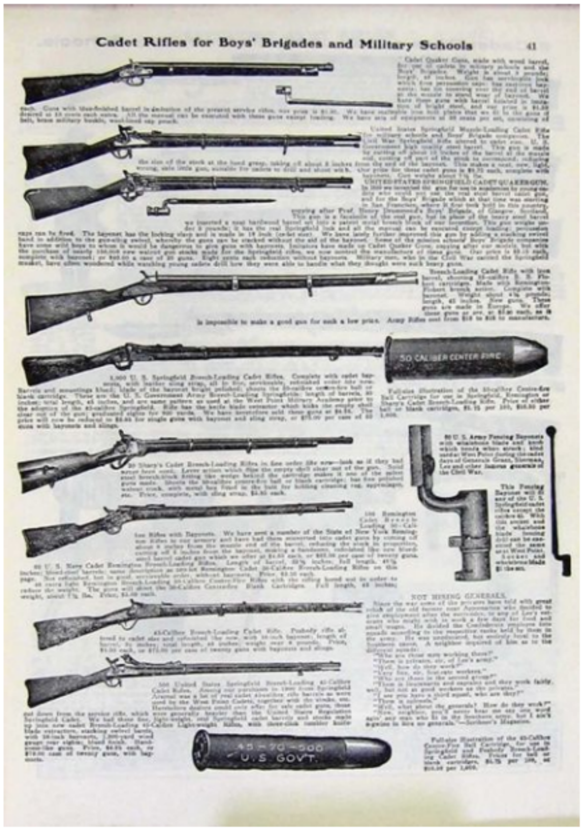
In good order, wood-work refinished, barrel and metal work reblued; length of barrel 28 inches, total length 45 inches, weight, 8¾ lbs., number in lot, 100. Price, $1.50 each. Can be used either as Cadet, Military Gun, Sporting Rifle or Shot Gun.

CADET FLINT-LOCK GUNS.

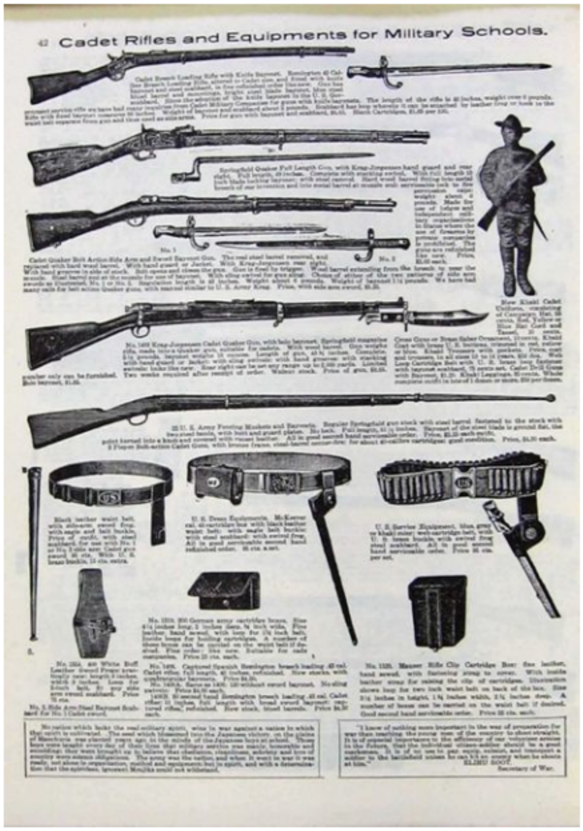
Used in Major Kinsley's Military Academy at West Point. The Academy was started in 1803. Are a very light, neat gun, complete with ramrod and bayonet, all in good working order. Some of the stocks are marked with initials, and have silver name plate, etc.; half a dozen flints go with each gun. Valuable as relics. Length of barrel, 29 inches, total length, 43 inches, weight, 6 lbs., bayonet, 10 ozs. Number in lot, 25. Price, $6.50 each.

1888 &1889 Cadet Rifle Advertisements

The following illustrations are from pages 41 and 42 of the 1907 Bannerman catalog. This catalog has the most information I have found relating to the types of drill and training rifle that this firm produced.

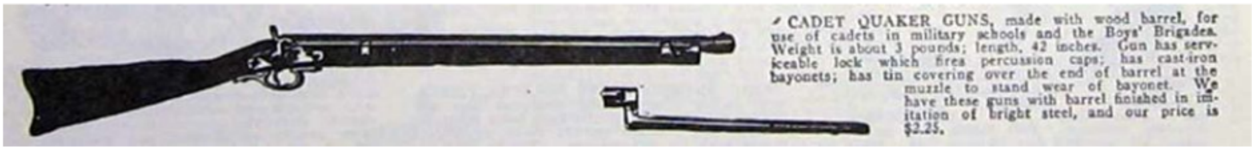


Cadet Rifles for Boys' Brigades and Military Schools 41



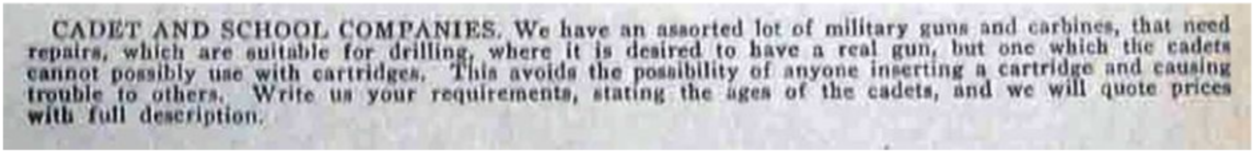
42 Cadet Rifles and Equipments for Military Schools.

The illustration of a percussion drill rifle was taken from a 1925 catalog and is the only drill rifle identified in the catalog of that year. You will note that it is the same as the first rifle shown on page 41 of the 1907 catalog.



CADET QUAKER GUNS, made with wood barrel, for use of cadets in military schools and the Boys' Brigades. Weight is about 3 pounds; length, 42 inches. Gun has serviceable lock which fires percussion caps; has cast-iron bayonets; has tin covering over the end of barrel at the muzzle to stand wear of bayonet. We have these guns with barrel finished in imitation of bright steel, and our price is $2.25.

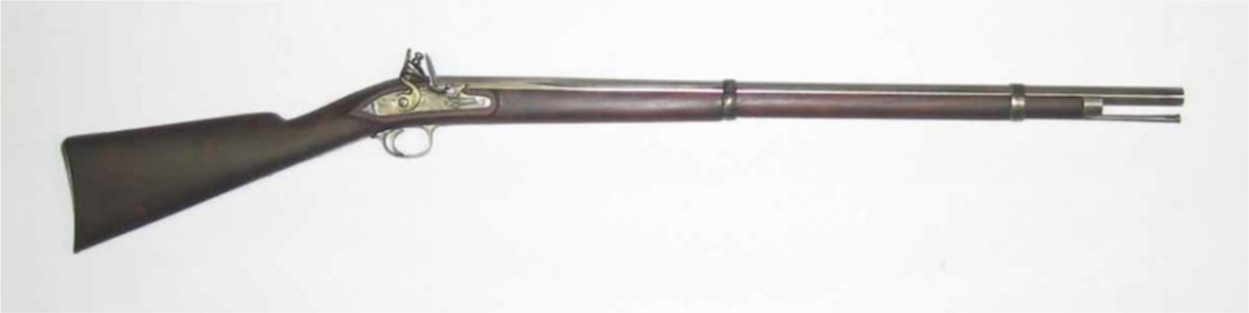
The following text was taken from the 1933 catalog. This was the only information relating to drill rifles in that catalog. None of the later catalogs have any specific drill rifle information in them. It seems probable that Bannerman continued to offer some form of drill rifles until the late 1930's.



CADET AND SCHOOL COMPANIES. We have an assorted lot of military guns and carbines, that need repairs, which are suitable for drilling, where it is desired to have a real gun, but one which the cadets cannot possibly use with cartridges. This avoids the possibility of anyone inserting a cartridge and causing trouble to others. Write us your requirements, stating the ages of the cadets, and we will quote prices with full description.

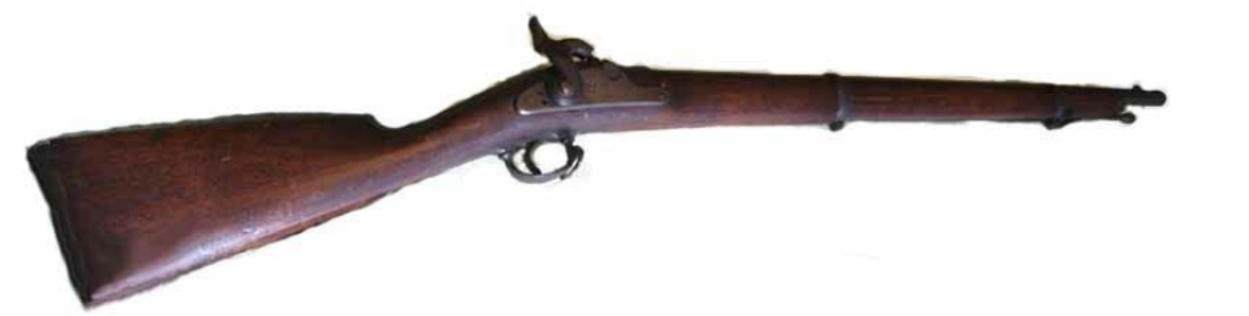
Flint Lock Cadet Rifle

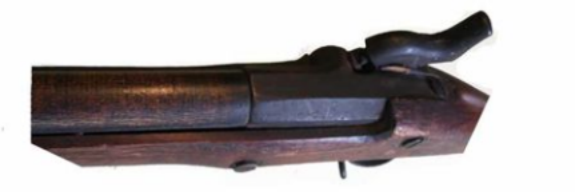
Replica

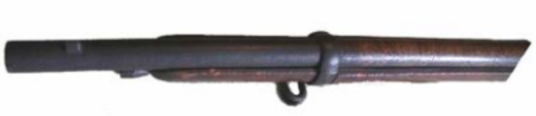


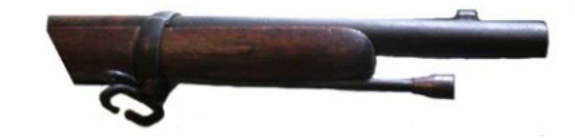
This is a non-firing replica of a Cadet Rifle shown in the Bannermans 1989 catalog. It appears that the original Cadet rifles were made from cut down muskets. These were made long after the flint lock era and were designed as drill rifles for military schools and drill organizations like the Boys Brigade.

Bannerman Cadet Rifle







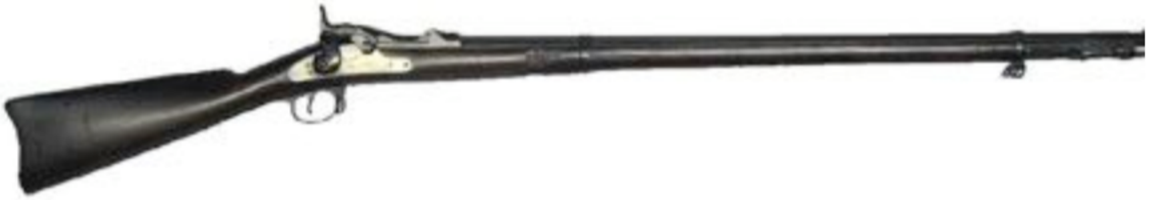


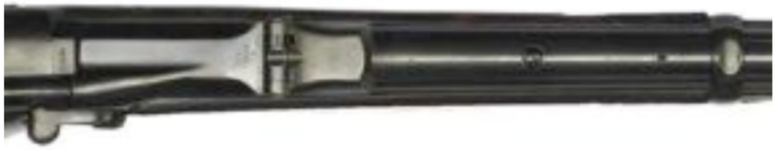
This training rifle is shown on page 41 in the 1907 Bannerman Catalog, with the following description.

UNITED STATES SPRINGFIELD CADET QUAKER GUN

In 1889 we invented this gun for use in academies by young cadets who could not use the real steel barrel cadet gun and for the Boys Brigade which at that time was starting in San Francisco, where it took hold in this country, coping after Prof. Henry Drummond's Boys Brigade of Glasgow, Scotland. This gun is a facsimile of the real gun, but in place of the heavy steel barrel we inserted a neat hardwood barrel set into a patent breech block of our own invention. This gun weighs under 5 pounds; it has the real Springfield lock and all the manual can be executed except loading; percussion caps can be fired. The bayonet has the locking clasp and is made in 16 inch (cadet size). We have lately further improved this gun by adding a stacking swivel band in addition to the gun-sling swivel, whereby the guns can be stacked without the aid of a bayonet. Some of the mission schools Boys Brigade companies have some wild boys to whom it would be dangerous to give guns with bayonets. Imitators have made up Cadet Quaker Guns, copying after our models, but with the purchase of nearly 150,000 new walnut gun stocks made for Springfield rifles, we now control the manufacture of these guns. Our price is $2.15 each, complete with bayonet; or $40.00 a case of 20 guns. Eight cents each reduction without bayonets. Military men, who in the Civil War carried the Springfield musket, have often wondered while watching young cadets drill how they were able to handle what they thought were such heavy guns.

Trap Door Springfield

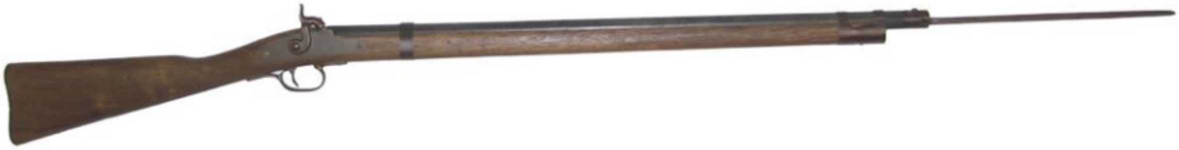


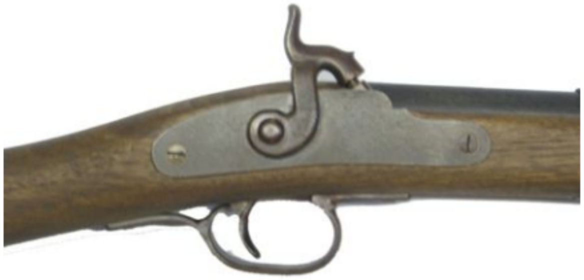


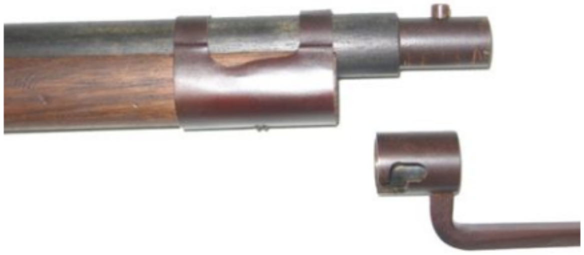
This drill rifle came from a military school that had used it for many years in parades. The rear sight had been removed a hole drilled through the barrel at the rear sight screw location.

The firing pin was removed. It is unknown whether it was purchased from the supplier that way or whether it was modified by the school. It shows the typical surface abuse so often found on drill rifles.

Bannerman Cadet Rifle





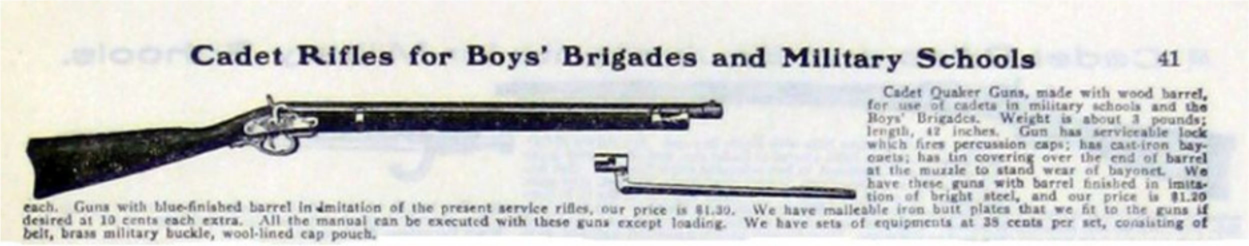


Bannerman advertised two Cadet Rifles for use by the Boys Brigade and military schools in his 1889 catalog. In his 1907 catalog he was advertising several different models for this use. The Cadet Rifle shown above is one of several listed in the 1907 catalog and was the only Cadet Rifle being listed in the1925 catalog. From his description relating to this Cadet Rifle it is obvious that this model was very different from most of the Cadet Rifles that he sold. Most of his Cadet Rifles were made from cut down military rifles. Many of them were called Quaker Rifles due to the fact that they used fake wooden barrels to lighten the weight. This rifle was basically a manufactured model with no original musket parts. It is unknown who actually produced this model for Bannerman. It is possible that it was produced by his own personnel in one of his many facilities. This seems highly probable due to the fact that they were doing substantial modifications on various military rifles at the time. One of the very unusual features was the cast iron bayonet that was provided for this model. It appears that there was the only one model of this Cadet Rifle with a few additional options available at an additional cost.

This Cadet Rifle has the unusual feature of having a two piece stock. This feature would make it possible to use much smaller pieces of wood, which greatly reduced the waste and the resulting cost. The lock mechanism is very simplified and was not at all like a musket lock. The hammer does cock and it can be released by pulling the trigger. This feature allowed it to fire regular percussion caps. The wooden barrel holds the two piece stock together and the joint is covered by the rear barrel band. The cast iron bayonet was locked in place by rotated it over a small boss on the top of the barrel.

Other specimens of this rifle are known to exist. They have minor variations in the barrel bands and the lock shape. These features appear to have been made to simplify the production of these parts. Some of these rifles have three barrel bands and others have only two. This probably reflects a later production date.

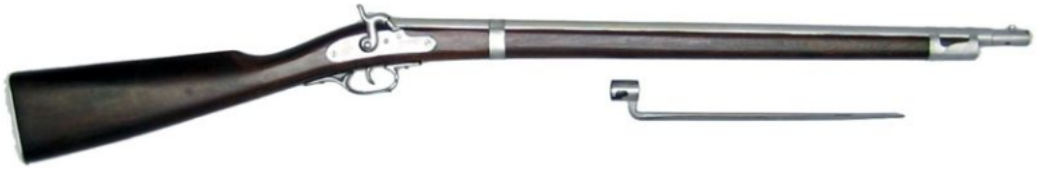
Below is shown the actual picture and description of this rifle were taken from the 1907 catalog. The text has been copied to make it easier to read.



Cadet Rifles for Boys' Brigades and Military Schools 41

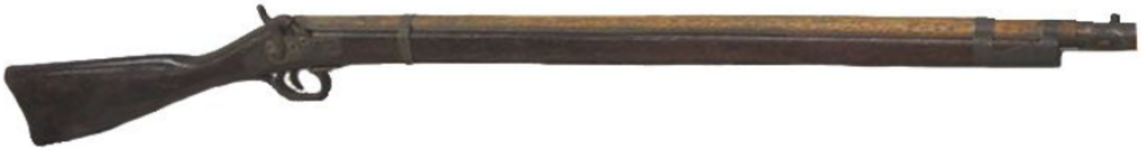
Cadet Quaker Guns, made with wood barrel, for use of cadets in military schools and the Boys' Brigades. Weight is about 3 pounds; length, 42 inches. Gun has serviceable lock which fires percussion caps; has cast-iron bayonets; has tin covering over the end of barrel at the muzzle to stand wear of bayonet. We have these guns with barrel finished in imitation of bright steel, and our price is $1.20 each. Guns with blue-finished barrel in imitation of the present service rifles, our price is $1.30. We have malleable iron butt plates that we fit to the guns if desired at 10 cents each extra. All the manual can be executed with these guns except loading. We have sets of equipments at 35 cents per set, consisting of belt, brass military buckle, wool-lined cap pouch.

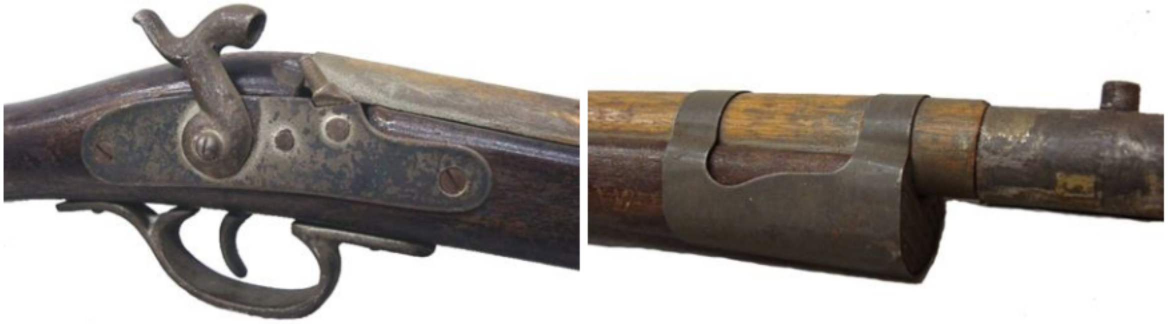
Cadet Quaker Guns, made with wood barrel, for use of cadets in military schools and the Boys Brigade. Weight is about 3 pounds, length, 42 inches. Gun has serviceable lock which fires percussion caps, has cast iron bayonet, has tin covering over the end of barrel at the muzzle to stand wear from bayonet. We have these guns with barrel finished in imitation of bright steel, and our price is $1.20 each. Guns with blue finished barrel in imitation of the present service rifles, our price is $1.30. We have malleable iron butt plates that we fit to the guns if desired at 10 cents extra. All the manual can be executed with these guns except loading. We have sets of equipment at 35 cents per set, consisting of belt, brass military buckle, wool-lined cap pouch.



This Cadet rifle is in outstanding condition. It appears that it was hardly used but was not well stored. It had been fired using percussion caps and not well cleaned. There are no handling dents and it is entirely functional. The most unusual feature is that it was one of the rifles that were produced with what was called "finished in imitation of bright steel". This was a fancy way of saying that the wooden barrel and all metal parts were painted with silver paint. The same model was also available with the parts painted black. It also has a metal butt plate which was an additional feature and cost. This specimen was the top of the line in its day. All of the Bannerman Catalogs used this model as their illustration of the Cadet Rifle. It is unknown what proportion was made in silver, but this is the first one that I have personally seen.

Ward-Stilson Co.

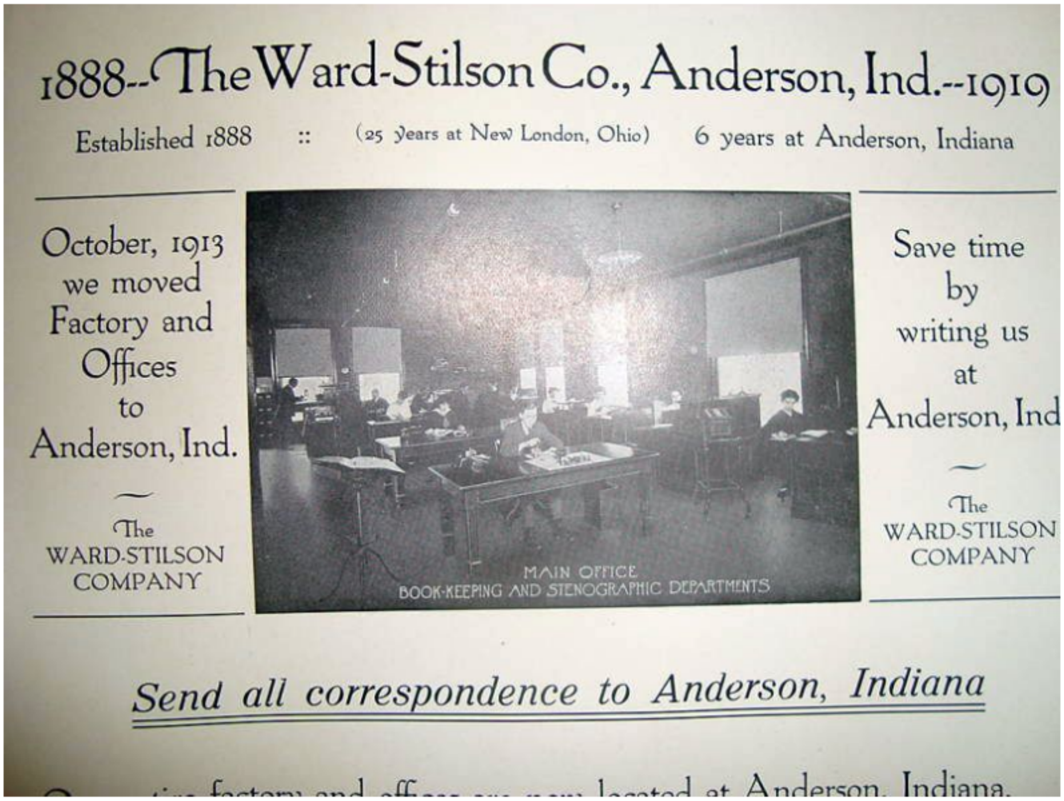




The Ward-Stilson Co. was a company that sold various forms of regalia for various civic and fraternal organizations. Clyde E. Ward apparently went into business under the name of C.E. Ward Co. in1888 selling lodge buttons and pins. In 1891 he formed a partnership with his brother in law Edward Stilson and formed the Ward-Stilson Co. They hired two women to do sewing and expanded the business to include caps, robes, swords and other lodge paraphernalia. In 1905 Ed Stilson bought out C.E Ward and continued in business as the Ward-Stilson Co.

It was probably about this time that they started selling Quaker Guns for parade purposes. These Quaker Guns were identical to those sold under the same name and description as those sold by Bannerman. It seems probable that they purchased them from the same source. A 1919 catalog shown below illustrated lists three models of the Quaker Gun with a cast iron bayonet. Bannerman continued to sell these Quaker Guns until about 1930, so it seems likely that Ward-Stilson Co. continued to sell them until this date.

It now appears that other similar companies also sold Quaker Guns during this time period.



1888--The Ward-Stilson Co., Anderson, Ind.--1919

Established 1888 :: (25 years at New London, Ohio) 6 years at Anderson, Indiana

October, 1913
we moved
Factory and
Offices
to
Anderson, Ind.

The
WARD-STILSON
COMPANY

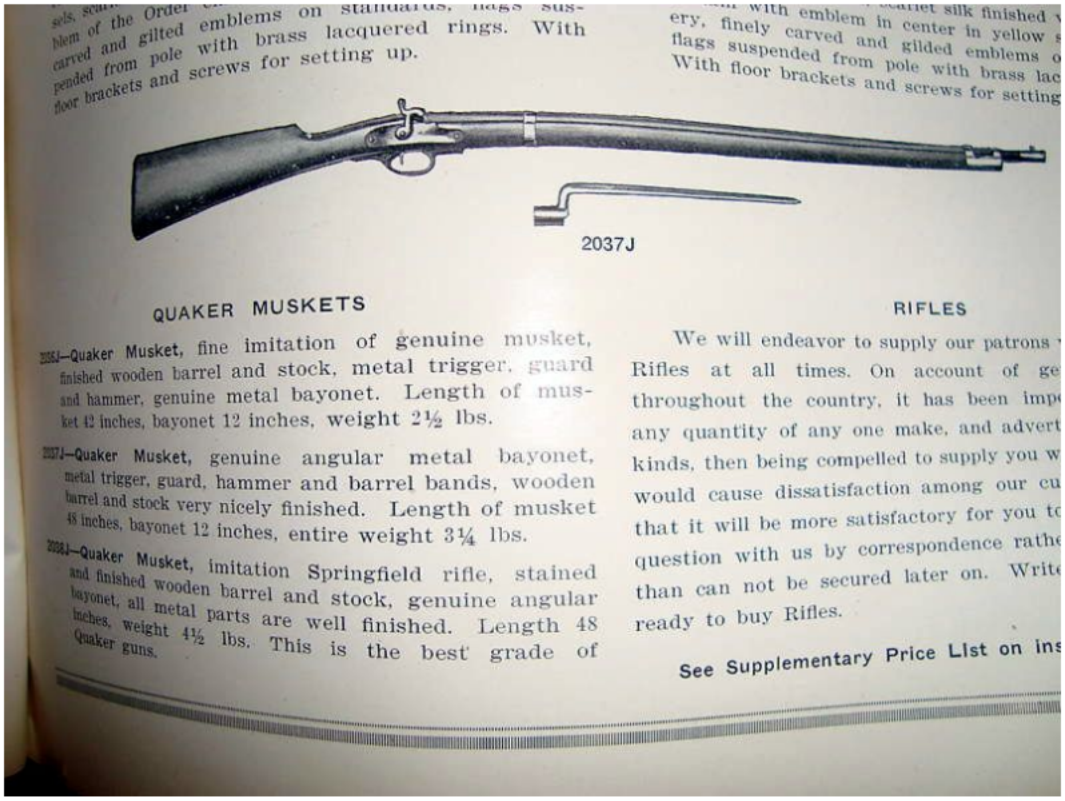
MAIN OFFICE
BOOK-KEEPING AND STENOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENTS

Save time
by
writing us
at
Anderson, Ind

The
WARD-STILSON
COMPANY

Send all correspondence to Anderson, Indiana

factory and offices are now located at Anderson, Indiana.



sels, scarl... of the Order ... standards, flags sus-
blem of the Order ... emblems on standards, flags sus-
carved and gilted emblems with brass lacquered rings. With
pended from pole with brass lacquered rings. With
floor brackets and screws for setting up.

... with emblem in center in yellow ... scarlet silk finished
ery, finely carved and gilded emblems o
flags suspended from pole with brass lac
With floor brackets and screws for setting

2037J

QUAKER MUSKETS

2036J—**Quaker Musket,** fine imitation of genuine musket, finished wooden barrel and stock, metal trigger, guard and hammer, genuine metal bayonet. Length of musket 42 inches, bayonet 12 inches, weight 2½ lbs.

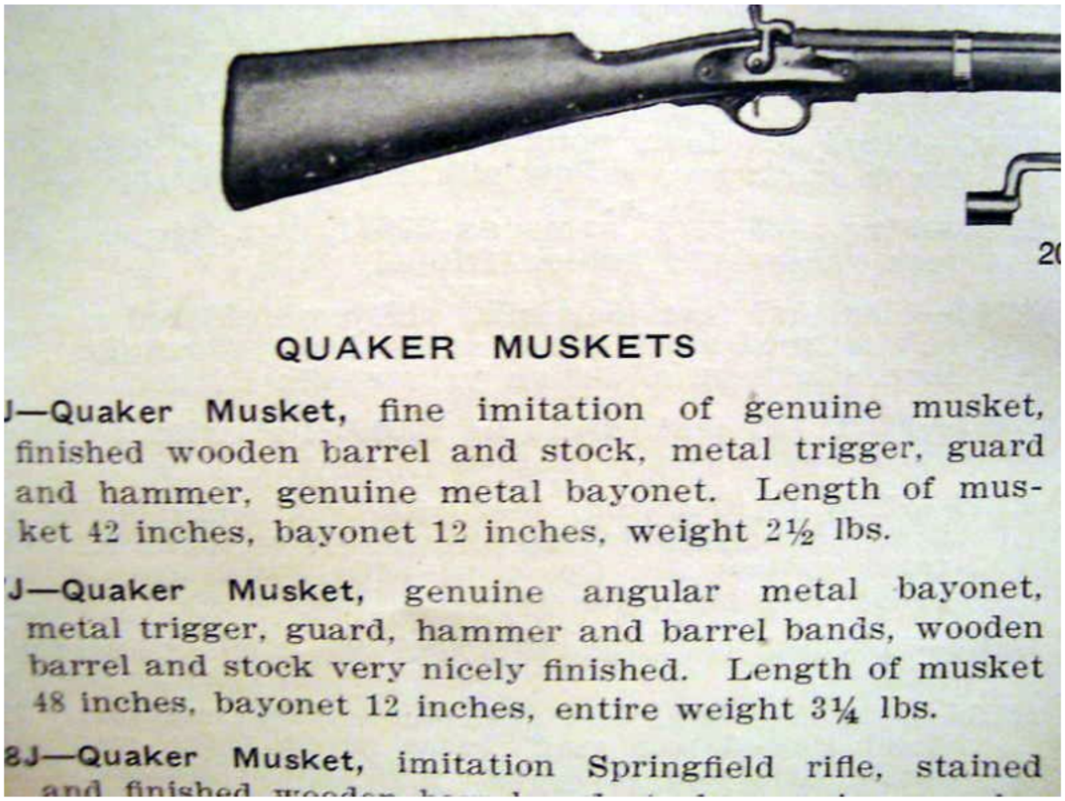
2037J—**Quaker Musket,** genuine angular metal bayonet, metal trigger, guard, hammer and barrel bands, wooden barrel and stock very nicely finished. Length of musket 48 inches, bayonet 12 inches, entire weight 3¼ lbs.

2038J—**Quaker Musket,** imitation Springfield rifle, stained and finished wooden barrel and stock, genuine angular bayonet, all metal parts are well finished. Length 48 inches, weight 4½ lbs. This is the best grade of Quaker guns.

RIFLES

We will endeavor to supply our patrons
Rifles at all times. On account of ge
throughout the country, it has been imp
any quantity of any one make, and advert
kinds, then being compelled to supply you w
would cause dissatisfaction among our cu
that it will be more satisfactory for you to
question with us by correspondence rathe
than can not be secured later on. Write
ready to buy Rifles.

See Supplementary Price List on ins



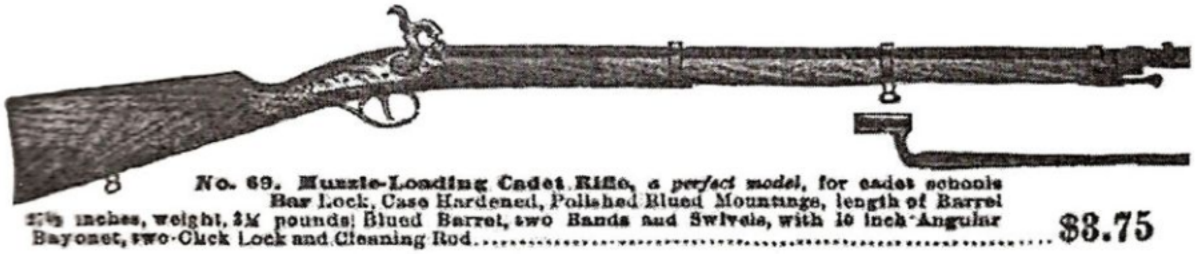
QUAKER MUSKETS

J—Quaker Musket, fine imitation of genuine musket, finished wooden barrel and stock, metal trigger, guard and hammer, genuine metal bayonet. Length of musket 42 inches, bayonet 12 inches, weight 2½ lbs.

J—Quaker Musket, genuine angular metal bayonet, metal trigger, guard, hammer and barrel bands, wooden barrel and stock very nicely finished. Length of musket 48 inches, bayonet 12 inches, entire weight 3¼ lbs.

8J—Quaker Musket, imitation Springfield rifle, stained and finished

Muzzle Loading Cadet Rifle



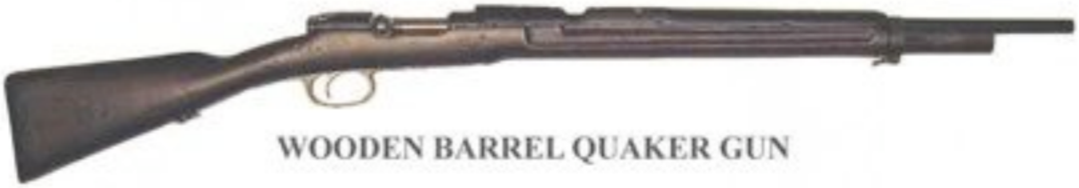
No. 69. Muzzle-Loading Cadet Rifle, *a perfect model*, **for cadet schools**
Bar Lock, Case Hardened, Polished Blued Mountings, length of Barrel
27½ inches, weight, 3¾ pounds; Blued Barrel, two Bands and Swivels, with 16 inch Angular
Bayonet, two-Click Lock and Cleaning Rod.. $3.75

This Muzzle Loading Cadet Rifle was found in the 1893 C.E. Meacham Arms Co. catalog. It has some of the characteristics of Bannerman's Cadet Quaker Gun which was sold from about 1900 through1925. Both of these guns are 42 inches long and have the same general shape. The Meachamp gun has a metal barrel and could be fired. The Bannerman gun has a wooden barrel and could only fire percussion caps. The Meacham gun has a functional (bar) back action lock while the Bannerman gun has a conventional lock shape with a simplified mechanism.

The Bannerman gun sold for $1.20 while the Meacham gun sold for $3.75. I suspect that both guns were made by the same firm in Europe (probably Belgium). Bannerman undoubtedly recognized that cadet guns did not need to be fired and simplified the design to greatly reduce the cost.

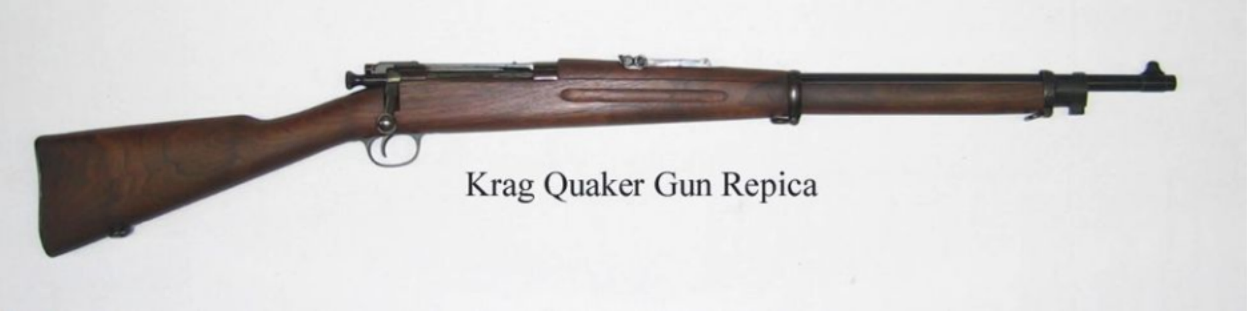
It should be noted that this "rifle" is a smooth bore gun. No specimens of this Muzzle Loading Cadet Rifle have been located to date.

Wooden Barrel Quaker Gun



This Quaker gun is based on the 1895 Dutch Manlicher rifle. The sights have been removed and the magazine cut off. It has a full length wooden barrel which makes the gun much lighter in weight. It is the same overall length as the 1903 Springfield rifle. This type of drill rifle was made for use by youth organizations.

Krag Quaker Gun

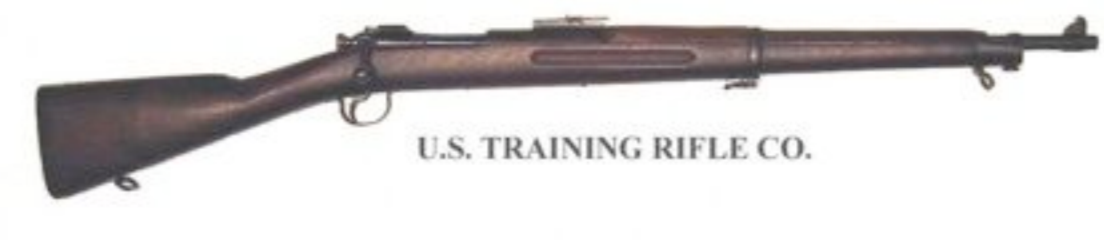


For a short period during the early 1900's Bannerman listed this Krag Quaker Gun in his catalogs. The material shown below was taken from the 1907 catalog. It is presumed that Krag rifles became available as surplus shortly after the 1903 Springfield was adopted. Bannerman apparently had sufficient demand for drill rifles to warrant converting some of these Krag rifles to appear like the new 1903 Springfield. They had the same 43 1/2 inch length and a similar profile. In order to lighten the weight he used wooden (Quaker) barrels and removed the magazine and side plate from the receiver. This required a new stock but used most of the metal parts from the Krag rifle.

At the start of the WWI, the 1903 Springfield rifles were still in short supply and the Krag rifles were put back into service for training purposes. I suspect that the Krag Quaker Guns were only produced from about 1905 through 1915 and were made in very small quantities.

Part 1a: USA -Identified Rifles

United States Training Rifle C0.



U.S. TRAINING RIFLE CO.

The US Training Rifle Co. produced a non-firing training rifle during World War One. At the start of the war there was a severe shortage of serviceable rifles for training purposes. Krag rifles were brought out of storage and put into service as training rifles even though they could not fire the1906 cartridge. This shortage led to the development of the non-firing US Training Rifle.

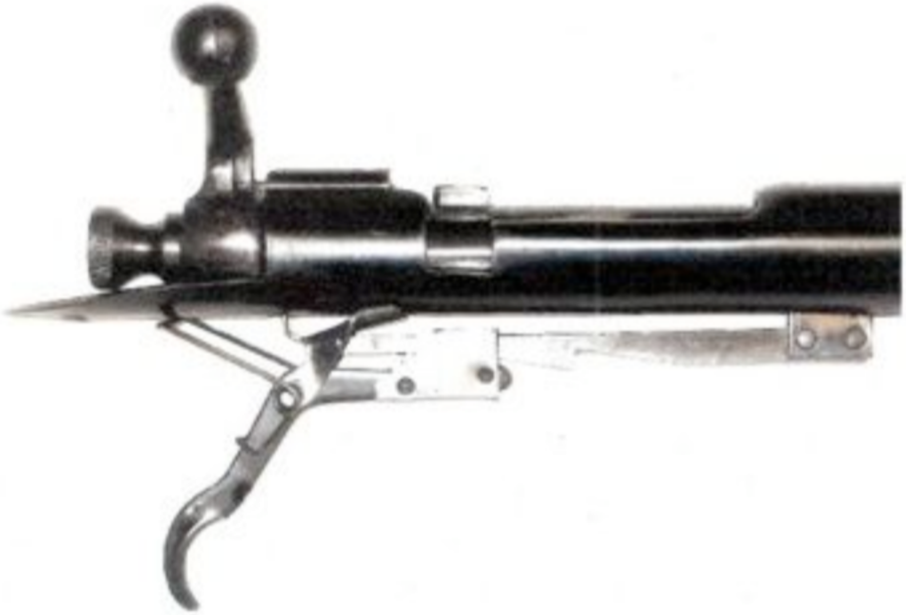
The United States Training Rifle Co. and the Wood-Art Machine Co. were involved in the production of the US Training Rifle. The relationship between these companies is an enigma. Examination of Boyd's Philadelphia Business Directory, the Industrial Directory of New Jersey, and correspondence with the US Navy give some insight into their relationship. During 1917, both companies used the same business address at 420 Stephen Girard Building and early in 1918 they both moved to 1201 Colonial Trust Building in Philadelphia, PA. The Wood-Art Machine Co. also had a "factory" (at an unknown address) in Woodbury, NJ. During this time period both companies had the same officers. James E. Baum was president, Wadsworth Cresse was treasurer, and Stephen Robinson was Secretary.

With few available records, it was impossible to find out much about these companies. However, I would speculate that these companies were in reality one organization that was operating under two different names for economic reasons. It is entirely possible that neither company produced any of the components that went into the US Training Rifle. They may have subcontracted all of the parts and merely assembled them in the Woodbury facility. To me this seems probable as they produced 10,000 training rifles in approximately 125 days. If they had produced all of the parts, I feel that it would have required a prohibitively large facility and work force. There is no record of any such large manufacturing facility in the Woodbury area at that time. The first listing of the Wood-Art Machine Co. appears in 1917 and the last in 1919. From this I must conclude that the Wood-Art Machine Co. was formed specifically to produce the US Training Rifle.

The US Training Rifle was an accurate reproduction of the 1903 Springfield rifle, which was the standard US military rifle of the period. It was not designed to fire but had the same weight and balance as the 1903 Springfield. The bolt was designed to operate in the normal manner. It was equipped with a bayonet lug that would mount a standard 1903 bayonet. The US Training Rifle Co. did not produce any bayonets or accessories for their training rifles. The top of the front receiver ring is stamped:

US TRAINING RIFLE CO.
PHILADELPHIA

There are no serial numbers on any of the metal parts. Several specimens have 3/8" - 1/2" high block numbers stamped into the wood near the butt plate. They are not in a consistent location but they all are below the 10000 units that were produced. At this time I would speculate that they are a serial number.



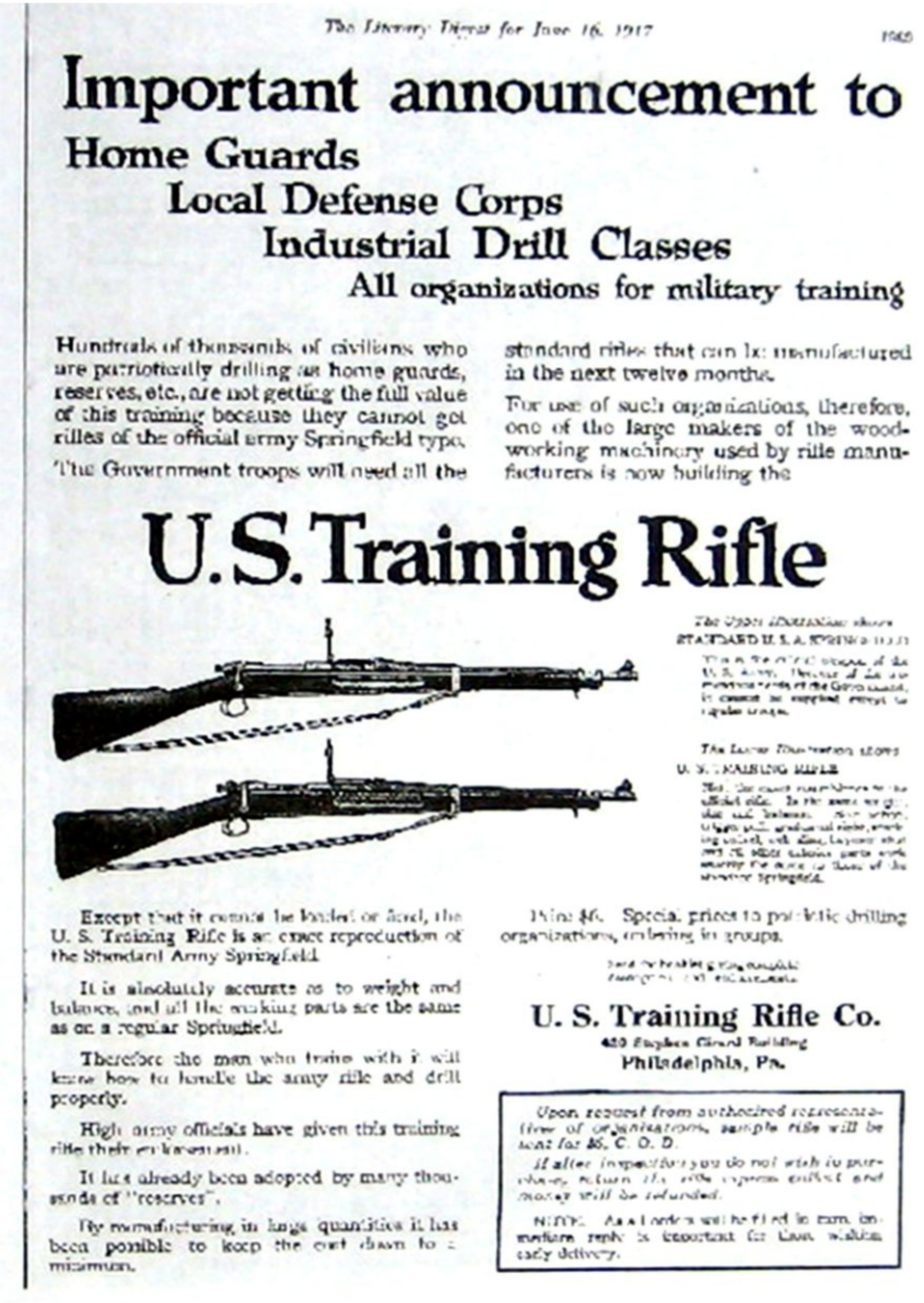
On July 2, 1917, Ralph Earle, Chief of the Ordnance Bureau of the United States Navy, contacted the US Training Rifle Co. concerning their advertisement which had just appeared in the Army and Navy Journal. There were discussions within the Navy departments concerning value of a non-firing training rifle but it was determined that, due to the shortage of arms, it was the only available option. On August 22, 1917 the Wood-Art Machine Co. agreed to produce 10,000 training rifles for the US Navy at a cost of $6.10 each at their factory in Woodbury, NJ. At this time they estimated that they could start delivery on September 1, 1917. On September 19, 1917, the Bureau of Ordnance submitted a requisition to the Wood-Art Machine Co. for 10,000 Training Rifles. On October 25, 1917, Navy contract #32435, requisition 383, for 10,000 training rifles was let. The price per unit was increased to $6.15 due to the cost of shipping them to the Navy Yard in Brooklyn, New York. The first deliveries to the Navy Yard were to start November 1, 1917. It appears that the contract was completed in March of 1918. The total cost of this contract was $61,500.

In all probability the Navy sold off all of their serviceable training rifles as surplus following the war. With the availability of large quantities of surplus rifles, I doubt that there would have been much demand for non-firing training rifles. It is possible that the US Training Rifle Co. had a sufficient number of parts remaining after the completion of the Navy contract to assemble some additional training rifles and they probably continued to do so until the supply of parts was depleted. It seems likely that their entire production would have numbered less than 11,000 units. There are unmarked specimens of the US Training Rifle. It is probable that they were produced late in the production run or after the Navy contract had been completed.

There are photographs of two US Training Rifles that have slightly different contours of the hand guard. The contour that has a raised section near the rear sight is shown in the earliest advertisement in 1917. The hand guard that does not have this raised section is obviously a simplification and was probably later production. It is unknown when this change occurred. It seems likely that the majority of the training rifles would have had the simplified hand guard. Due to their scarcity it is impossible to make any accurate assessment.

In its day, the US Training Rifle was the most sophisticated training rifle ever produced and is an excellent replica of the 1903 Springfield.

The following advertisement appeared in the June 16 ,1917 issue of the Literary Digest. The text has been copied to make it more legible.



The Literary Digest for June 16, 1917 1965

Important announcement to

Home Guards
Local Defense Corps
Industrial Drill Classes
All organizations for military training

Hundreds of thousands of civilians who are patriotically drilling as home guards, reserves, etc., are not getting the full value of this training because they cannot get rifles of the official army Springfield type.

The Government troops will need all the standard rifles that can be manufactured in the next twelve months.

For use of such organizations, therefore, one of the large makers of the woodworking machinery used by rifle manufacturers is now building the

U.S. Training Rifle

The Upper illustration shows
STANDARD U. S. A. SPRINGFIELD

This is the official weapon of the U. S. Army. Because of the [illegible] needs of the Government, it cannot be supplied except to regular troops.

The Lower illustration shows
U. S. TRAINING RIFLE

This [illegible] exact resemblance to the official rifle. In the same weight, size and balance. [illegible] sights, [illegible] working swivel, with sling, bayonet [illegible] working parts [illegible] exactly the same as those of the standard Springfield.

Except that it cannot be loaded or fired, the U. S. Training Rifle is an exact reproduction of the Standard Army Springfield.

It is absolutely accurate as to weight and balance, and all the working parts are the same as on a regular Springfield.

Therefore the man who trains with it will know how to handle the army rifle and drill properly.

High army officials have given this training rifle their endorsement.

It has already been adopted by many thousands of "reserves".

By manufacturing in large quantities it has been possible to keep the cost down to a minimum.

Price $6. Special prices to patriotic drilling organizations, ordering in groups.

[illegible]

U. S. Training Rifle Co.
420 Stephen Girard Building
Philadelphia, Pa.

Upon request from authorized representatives of organizations, sample rifle will be sent for $6, C. O. D.

If after inspection you do not wish to purchase, return the rifle express collect and money will be refunded.

NOTE: As all orders will be filled in turn, immediate reply is important for those wishing early delivery.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians who are patriotically drilling as home guards, reserves, etc., are not getting the full value of this training because they cannot get rifles of the official army Springfield type.

The Government troops will need all the standard rifles can be manufactured in the next twelve months.

For use of such organizations, therefore, one of the large makers of the woodworking machinery used by rifle manufacturers is now building the

U.S. Training Rifle

The upper illustration shows

STANDARD U.S.A. SPRINGFIELD

This is the official weapon of the U.S. Army. Because of the current needs of the government, it cannot be supplied except to regular units.

The Lower Illustration Shows

U.S. Training Rifle

Note the exact resemblance to the official rifle. Is the same weight, size and balance. Bolt action, trigger pull, graduated sight, stock and all other exterior parts work correctly the in of the standard Springfield.

Price $6. Special prices to patriotic drilling Organizations, ordering in groups.

Except that it cannot be loaded and fired, the U.S. Training Rifle is an exact reproduction of the Standard Army Springfield.

It is absolutely accurate as to weight and balance, and all the working parts are the same as on a regular Springfield.

Therefore, the man when training with it will know how to handle the army rifle and drill properly.

High army officials have given this training rifle their endorsement.

It has already been adopted by many thousands of "reserves"

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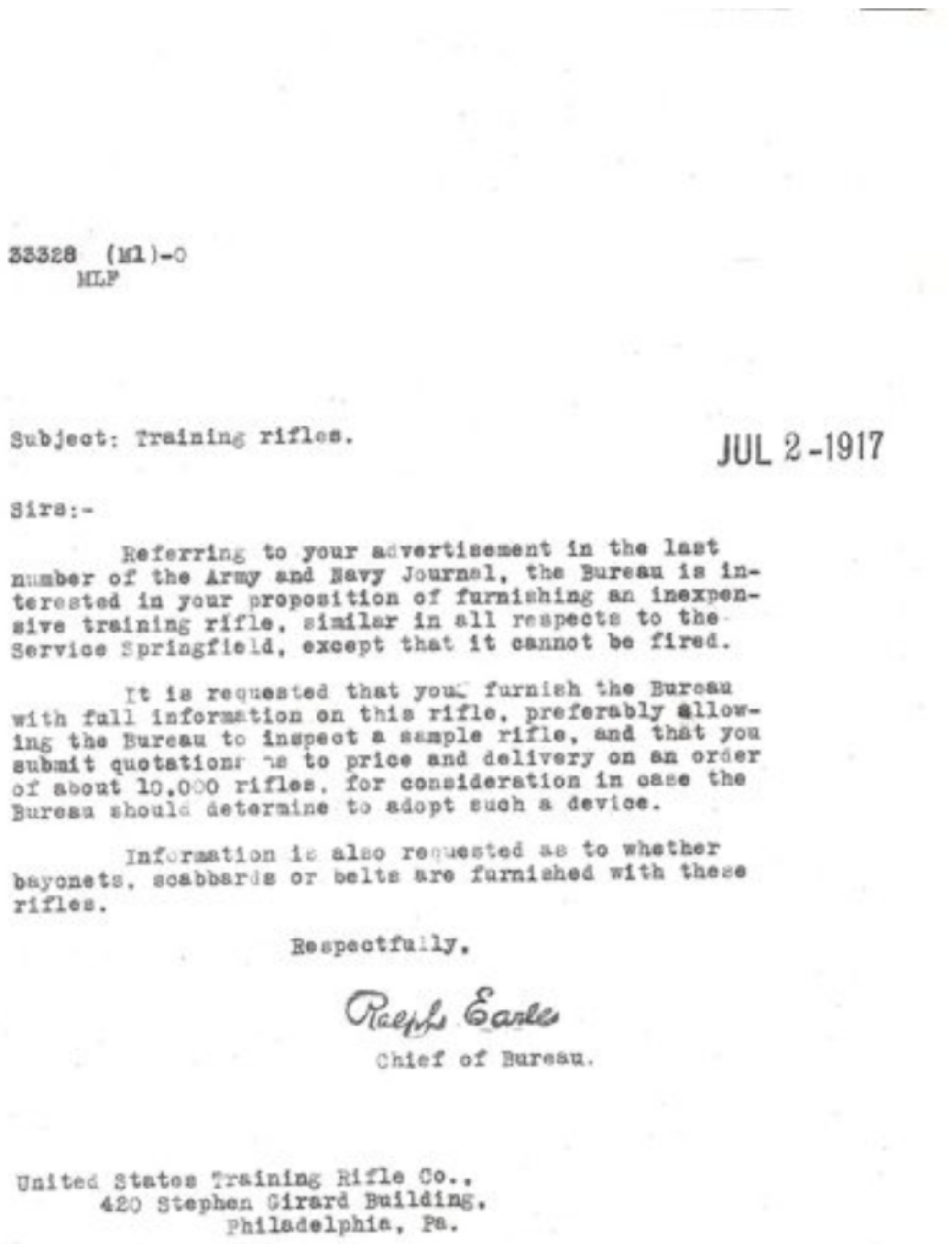


33328 (M1)-O
MLF

Subject: Training rifles.

JUL 2-1917

Sirs:-

Referring to your advertisement in the last number of the Army and Navy Journal, the Bureau is interested in your proposition of furnishing an inexpensive training rifle, similar in all respects to the Service Springfield, except that it cannot be fired.

It is requested that you furnish the Bureau with full information on this rifle, preferably allowing the Bureau to inspect a sample rifle, and that you submit quotations as to price and delivery on an order of about 10,000 rifles, for consideration in case the Bureau should determine to adopt such a device.

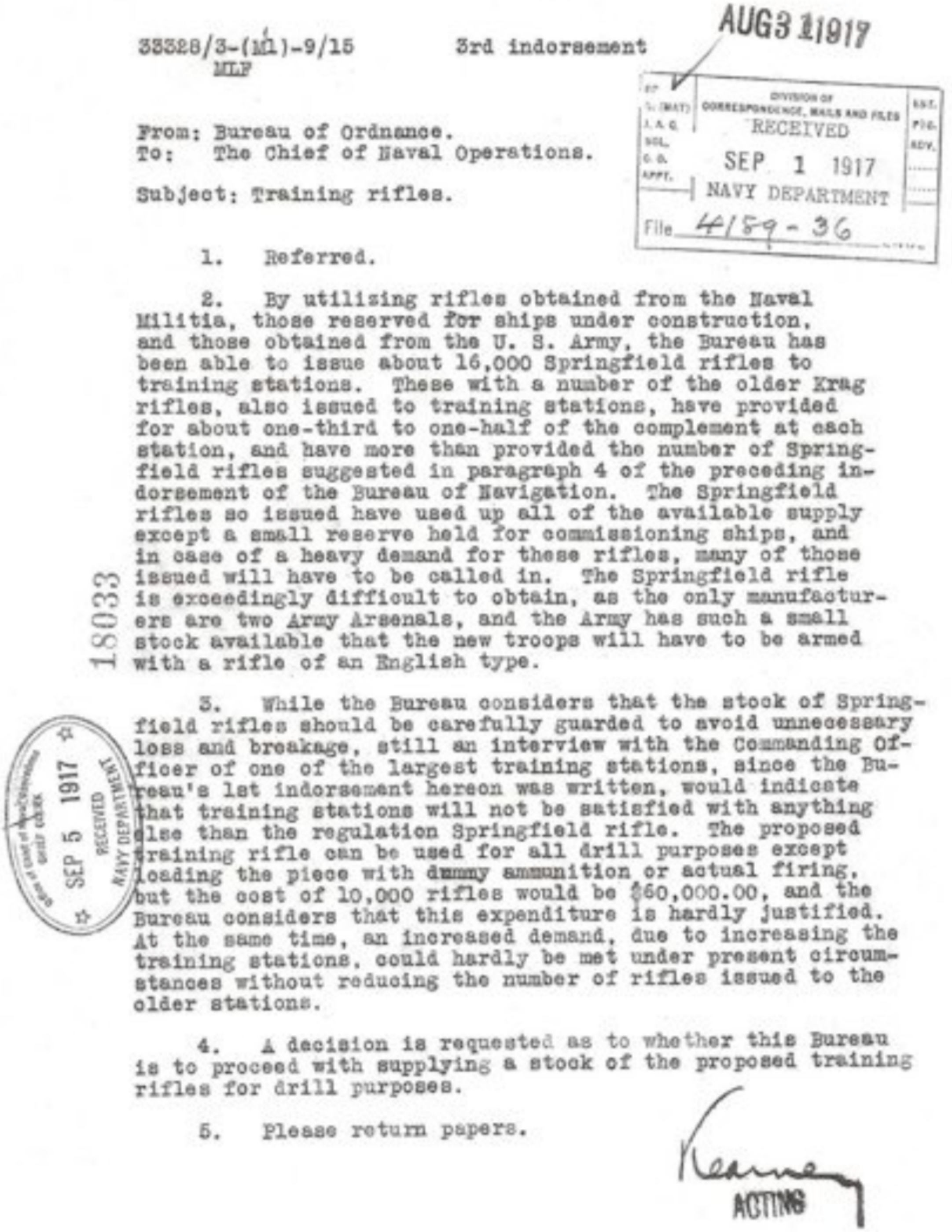
Information is also requested as to whether bayonets, scabbards or belts are furnished with these rifles.

Respectfully,

Ralph Earle

Chief of Bureau.

United States Training Rifle Co.,
420 Stephen Girard Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.



AUG 31 1917

33328/3-(M1)-9/15 3rd indorsement
MLF

DIVISION OF CORRESPONDENCE, MAILS AND FILES
RECEIVED
SEP 1 1917
NAVY DEPARTMENT
File 4159-36

From: Bureau of Ordnance.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Training rifles.

1. Referred.

2. By utilizing rifles obtained from the Naval Militia, those reserved for ships under construction, and those obtained from the U. S. Army, the Bureau has been able to issue about 16,000 Springfield rifles to training stations. These with a number of the older Krag rifles, also issued to training stations, have provided for about one-third to one-half of the complement at each station, and have more than provided the number of Springfield rifles suggested in paragraph 4 of the preceding indorsement of the Bureau of Navigation. The Springfield rifles so issued have used up all of the available supply except a small reserve held for commissioning ships, and in case of a heavy demand for these rifles, many of those issued will have to be called in. The Springfield rifle is exceedingly difficult to obtain, as the only manufacturers are two Army Arsenals, and the Army has such a small stock available that the new troops will have to be armed with a rifle of an English type.

18033

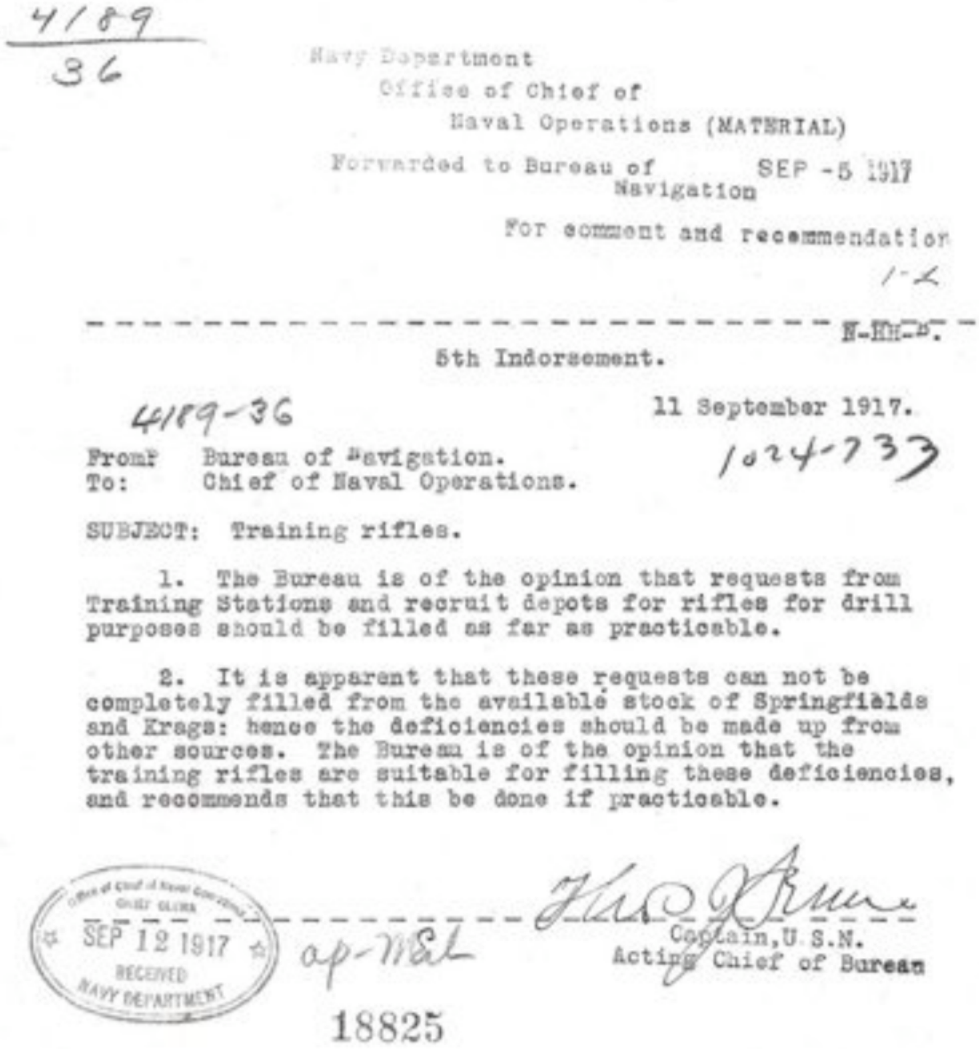
SEP 5 1917
RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT

3. While the Bureau considers that the stock of Springfield rifles should be carefully guarded to avoid unnecessary loss and breakage, still an interview with the Commanding Officer of one of the largest training stations, since the Bureau's 1st indorsement hereon was written, would indicate that training stations will not be satisfied with anything else than the regulation Springfield rifle. The proposed training rifle can be used for all drill purposes except loading the piece with dummy ammunition or actual firing, but the cost of 10,000 rifles would be $60,000.00, and the Bureau considers that this expenditure is hardly justified. At the same time, an increased demand, due to increasing the training stations, could hardly be met under present circumstances without reducing the number of rifles issued to the older stations.

4. A decision is requested as to whether this Bureau is to proceed with supplying a stock of the proposed training rifles for drill purposes.

5. Please return papers.

Kearney
ACTING



4189
36

Navy Department
Office of Chief of
Naval Operations (MATERIAL)

Forwarded to Bureau of Navigation SEP -5 1917

For comment and recommendation

1-2

N-HH-D.

5th Indorsement.

4189-36

11 September 1917.

1024-733

From: Bureau of Navigation.
To: Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Training rifles.

1. The Bureau is of the opinion that requests from Training Stations and recruit depots for rifles for drill purposes should be filled as far as practicable.

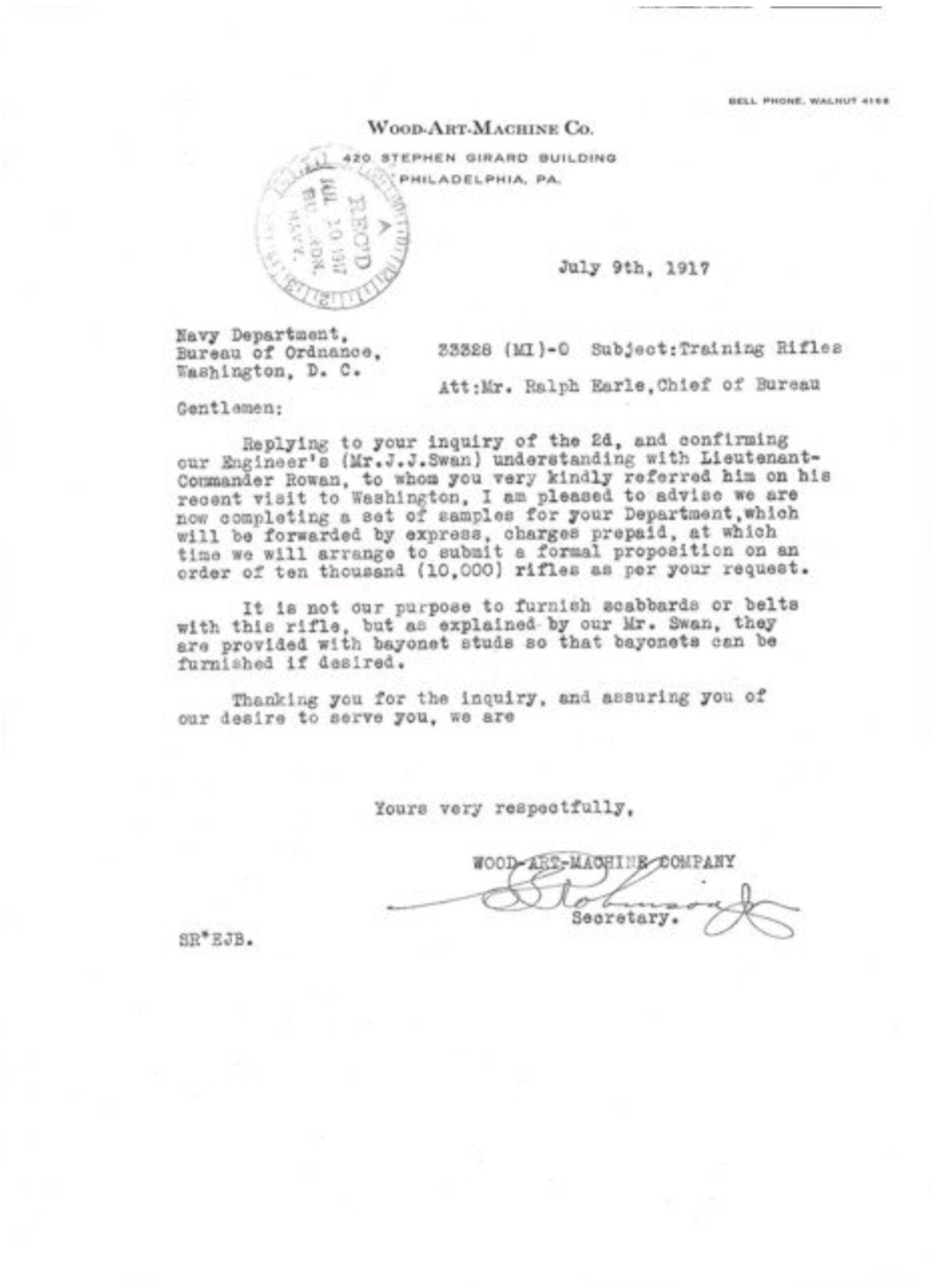
2. It is apparent that these requests can not be completely filled from the available stock of Springfields and Krags: hence the deficiencies should be made up from other sources. The Bureau is of the opinion that the training rifles are suitable for filling these deficiencies, and recommends that this be done if practicable.

Captain, U.S.N.
Acting Chief of Bureau

Office of Chief of Naval Operations
Chief Clerk
SEP 12 1917
RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT

op-MSL

18825



BELL PHONE, WALNUT 4168

WOOD-ART-MACHINE CO.

420 STEPHEN GIRARD BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RECD
JUL 10 1917
BU. ORDN.
NAVY.

July 9th, 1917

Navy Department,
Bureau of Ordnance,
Washington, D. C.

23328 (MI)-0 Subject:Training Rifles

Att:Mr. Ralph Earle,Chief of Bureau

Gentlemen:

Replying to your inquiry of the 2d, and confirming our Engineer's (Mr.J.J.Swan) understanding with Lieutenant-Commander Rowan, to whom you very kindly referred him on his recent visit to Washington, I am pleased to advise we are now completing a set of samples for your Department,which will be forwarded by express, charges prepaid, at which time we will arrange to submit a formal proposition on an order of ten thousand (10,000) rifles as per your request.

It is not our purpose to furnish scabbards or belts with this rifle, but as explained by our Mr. Swan, they are provided with bayonet studs so that bayonets can be furnished if desired.

Thanking you for the inquiry, and assuring you of our desire to serve you, we are

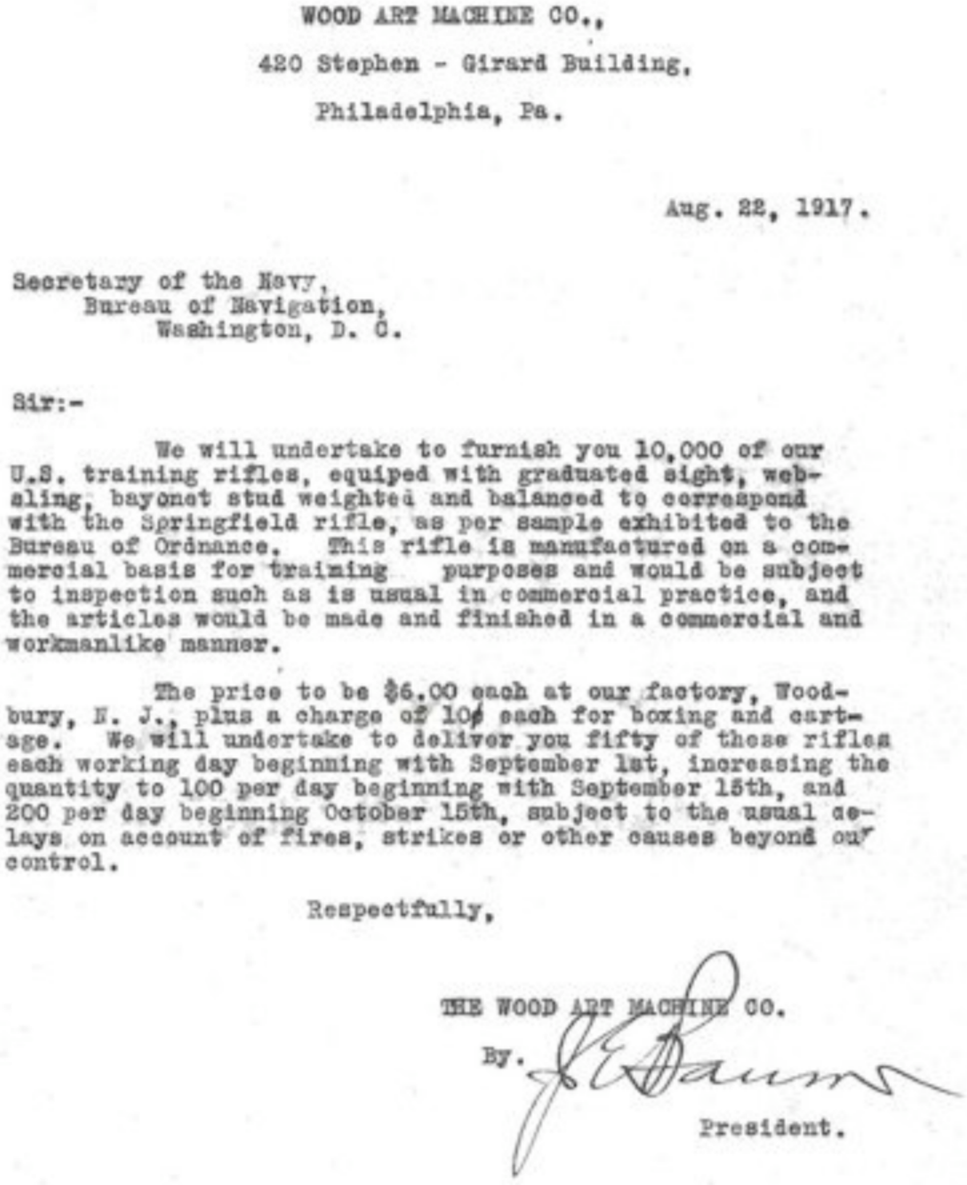
Yours very respectfully,

WOOD-ART-MACHINE COMPANY

S. Robinson

Secretary.

SR*EJB.



WOOD ART MACHINE CO.,
420 Stephen - Girard Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Aug. 22, 1917.

Secretary of the Navy,
Bureau of Navigation,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

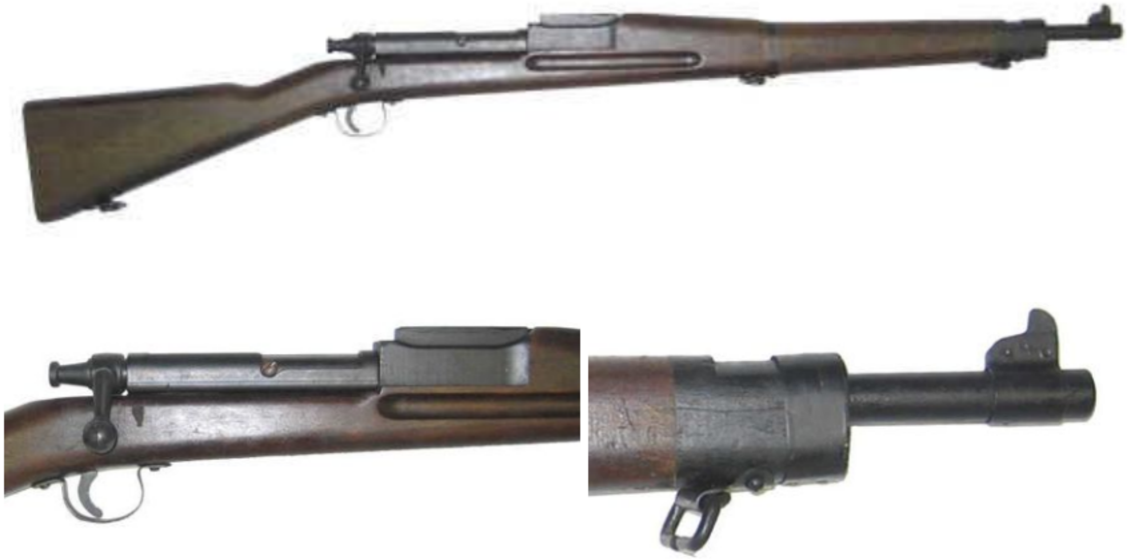
We will undertake to furnish you 10,000 of our U.S. training rifles, equiped with graduated sight, web-sling, bayonet stud weighted and balanced to correspond with the Springfield rifle, as per sample exhibited to the Bureau of Ordnance. This rifle is manufactured on a commercial basis for training purposes and would be subject to inspection such as is usual in commercial practice, and the articles would be made and finished in a commercial and workmanlike manner.

The price to be $6.00 each at our factory, Woodbury, N. J., plus a charge of 10¢ each for boxing and cartage. We will undertake to deliver you fifty of these rifles each working day beginning with September 1st, increasing the quantity to 100 per day beginning with September 15th, and 200 per day beginning October 15th, subject to the usual delays on account of fires, strikes or other causes beyond our control.

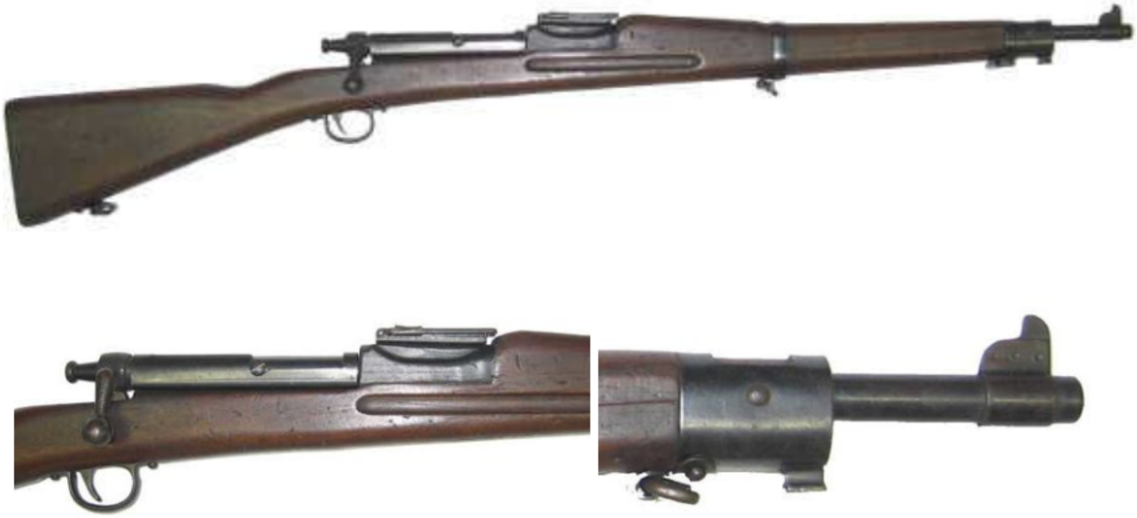
Respectfully,

THE WOOD ART MACHINE CO.
By.
President.

Parris-Dunn Training Rifle



Victory 1942 model



Mark I Navy model

Unfortunately, no Parris-Dunn production records still exist, so all of the information relating to them has been pieced together from other sources. An early employee by the name of Maurice O. Greimann wrote short article in 1984 concerning the Parris-Dunn Corp and his information has been invaluable. In 1943 Mr. Greimann came to work for the Parris-Dunn Corp. as an electrical engineer. When the work shifted to making Training Rifles he became involved in their production and designed the firing mechanism for the first toy guns they later produced.

The Parris-Dunn Corporation was founded by William G. Dunn and Cecil L Parris when they formed a business partnership in 1937. Each of these men brought unique contributions to this partnership.

Although Dunn had no formal technical training he, like many great inventors, could see the interrelationships that existed between different mechanical devices and could modify or combine them to solve problems. Parris had a background as sales manager for the Kari-Kleen company of Sioux City, Iowa and was a talented merchandiser. Initially Parris was the President of the corporation and Dunn the Vice-president but during the war years their positions reversed.

William G. Dunn (1883-1968) ran a hardware business in Clarinda, Iowa in the early 1900's. In 1917 he formed the Dunn Counterbalance Company operating out of the back of his hardware store. He eventually built a factory on South 15th Street in Clarinda and the name was changed to the Dunn Manufacturing Co. He was a very talented inventor and eventually held patents for 75 different mechanical devices, many of which were related to the early automobile and aircraft industry. In 1934 he developed a wind driven generator that was designed for farm use. His primary invention was a device to control the speed of the propeller on this device. In 1936 he formed a partnership with Cecil Parris in order to better promote his generator business. In 1937 they sold 37,000 of these units. When WWII broke out in 1941 their wind generator business was declared nonessential and they were only allowed to make repair parts for the units already in use. There was a severe shortage of military firearms at the start of the war and they were approached by US Army Ordnance to produce a non-firing training rifle. Shortly after, the US Navy also expressed interest in this project but they wanted some slight modifications in their model.

In July of 1942 the Army let contract 271 ORD for 35,000 training rifles of their pattern at a cost of $166,000. In August the Navy let contract NROS 10993 for 190,000 training rifles having their changes at a cost of $903,000. In October of 1942 the Army contract was completed and in November they finished the first Navy contract. In January of 1943 the Navy let contract NORD 808 for 110,000 additional training rifles and in June that contract was completed. The total cost of the 300,000 rifles produced for the Navy was $1,384,000. The cost per rifle for the first contract was $4.75 and for the second contract $4.37. By the time of the second contract, Parris-Dunn could no longer get walnut wood for the stocks as all of it was going to arsenals that were making functional military rifles. They had to start using a cheaper grade of wood during the last contract which lowered the unit price.

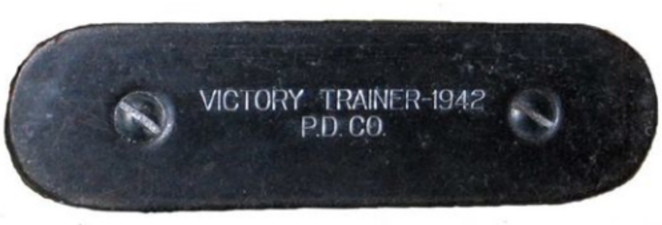
Prior to the start of the military contracts Parris-Dunn recognized that they did not have sufficient personnel to produce the required number of training rifles in a short period of time. They put together another organization called Parris-Dunn Associates to undertake this important project. I have a document that contains the following: “C.L. Parris, W.G. Dunn and H.E. Davidson, Copartners, doing business as Parris-Dunn Associates”. At this time I have not been able to identify H.E. Davidson. They immediately expanded into all of the available building space in the area and hired more employees. This number grew to 250 during the peak of their production. They sub-contracted much of the work to 14 different businesses. The wooden stocks and sights were manufactured at their Clarinda plant and all of the assembly and finishing was also done there. They had that capacity to produce over 3000 training rifles a day. They became so efficient that the company voluntarily returned $228,000 to the Government as excess on allowable profit. On July 23, 1943 Parris-Dunn Associates received the coveted Army-Navy “E” Production Award.

After the completion of their military contracts they continue to produce 200,000 of a civilian model for drill corps, schools and ROTC programs. The civilian model was essentially the same as the military models but had different markings.

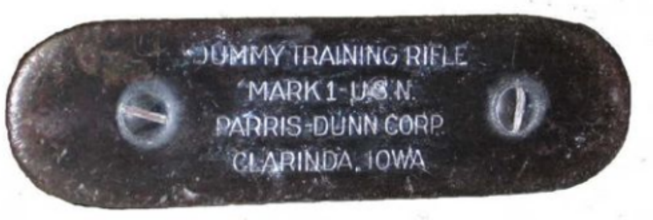
In November of 1945 The Nave classified their training rifles as surplus and offered them for sale at $7.75. This price included a plastic bayonet and scabbard. Nothing is known concerning the disposition of the Army training rifles.

The Parris-Dunn Training Rifle is not a very accurate replica of the 1903 Springfield Rifle. It has a similar profile but is thinner in cross section and 3 pounds lighter in weight. The receiver, bolt and trigger mechanism are simple and crude by comparison to the Springfield. It has the general feel and appearance of a toy. It was reported that these training rifles were not very popular with soldiers and sailors that were required to use them during basic training. It must be noted that there were no other alternatives available at the time.

The Army model was marked on the butt plate:



The Navy contract rifles were marked on the butt plate:



The stock and the bolt mechanism are identical on both models and both models have two sling swivels and a stacking swivel. The following differences will help identify each model.

The typical Army Model

1. It has a simple trigger that does not move.
2. It has a sheet metal trigger guard.
3. It has either no middle barrel band or it has a painted black stripe to simulate this band.
4. It has no bayonet lug.

The typical Navy Model

1. It has a movable trigger that makes an audible click when pulled.
2. The trigger guard was made of cast iron.
3. It has a metal middle barrel band.
4. It has a bayonet lug on the metal front barrel band.

Specimens with the Army butt plate marking have been found with some Navy model parts. This is probably due to the Army and Navy contracts overlapping. William Brophy indicates that there are unmarked specimens of these training rifles. An interesting fact appeared while I was examining a U.S. Training Rifle Co. Specimen. The rear sight on the Parris-Dunn Training Rifle is an exact copy of the rear sight on the U.S. Training Rifle which was produced in 1917. Because of the way they were mounted this cannot be chance or a case of interchanging parts at a later date. Maurice O. Greiman indicated that the rear sights were made in the Parris-Dunn plant in Clarinda. It would be interesting to know how Parris-

Dunn got the tooling to produce them or if they possibly produced the original sights for the U.S Training rifle Co.

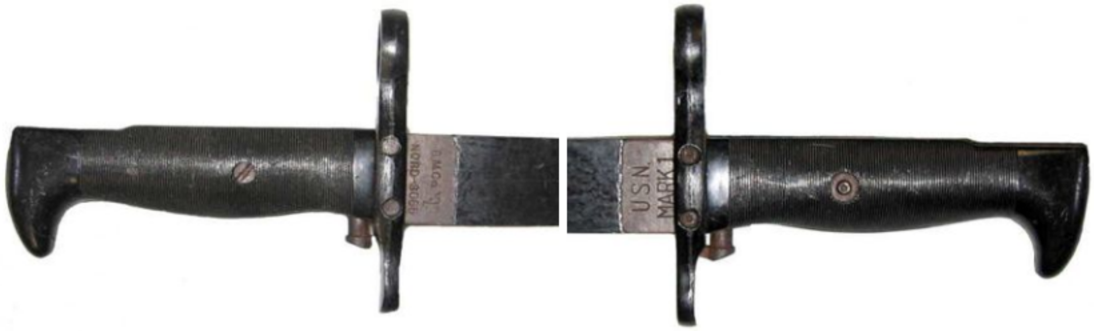
There is very little information relating to training rifle slings. The only verifiable information that I have located came from the Nordaway Valley Historical Museum in Clarinda, Iowa. They indicated that Parris-Dunn contracted with the Boyt Harness & Leather Goods Company to produce slings for the military contract training rifles. During WWII this firm was located in nearby Des Moines, Iowa. A sling on one of the training rifles in the Nordaway Museum is marked BOYT - 43. The 43 marking indicates the year 1943. Other training rifles are known carrying BOYT slings with 42, 43and 44 markings. Although it is not verified, it seems highly probable that Boyt was the only supplier of slings for the Parris-Dunn training rifles. Boyt also had military contracts to supply 1907 style rifle slings for functional rifles. The 1907 sling was the standard sling for the 1903 Springfield and the M1 Garand throughout WWII. The early 1907 slings had brass hardware through the early days of WWII. When brass was became scarce, sling hardware was made from steel that had a parkerized finish.

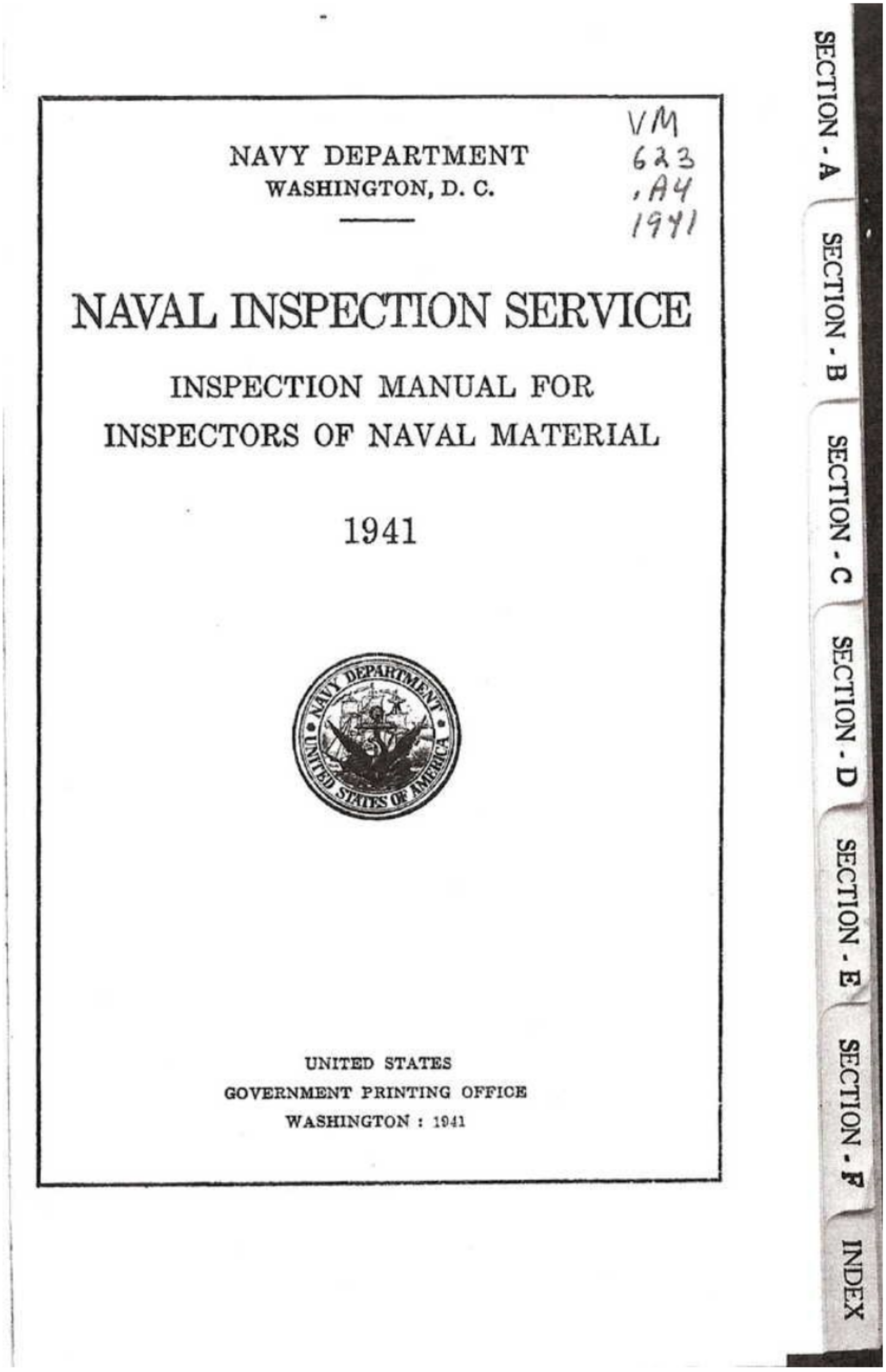
There is a great variation in the slings that are currently found on Parris-Dunn Training Rifles. There were at least 30 different manufacturers of leather rifle slings during WWII. When the training rifles were sold a surplus following WWII, they were listed as having a bayonet but there is no mention of a sling. The military may have removed the slings as they would have been usable on other military rifles. In later years, the leather slings would have been more valuable than the training rifles and were probably removed by collectors and put on more valuable military rifles.

At this time, WWII period slings in good condition are very expensive. I feel that the condition of the sling on a training rifle has more to do with the value of the training rifle than the marking the sling carries. If I had a choice, I would select a Boyt sling with a 42 or 43 date for a Parris - Dunn training rifle.

For anyone looking for information relating to military rifle slings, I highly recommend the following website: The Rifle Sling Home Page

All of the Navy contract training rifles were supplied with a plastic bayonet and scabbard. One of the changes specified prior to the start of the first Navy contract was to attach a bayonet lug on the forward band. This probably indicates that no bayonet lug was planned on the Army model. However, there are known specimens of the Army model that have a bayonet lug. This may have something to do with the Army and Navy production overlapping and that it was more economical to use one style of front band. Early in WWII there was a critical shortage of steel; as little steel as possible was used in the manufacture of the training rifles and plastic was substituted for the blade of the bayonet. The bayonet was designed to fit the training rifle and they would not fit on any of the standard U.S. military arms. Pro-phy-lac-tic Brush Co. and Beckwith Manufacturing Co. each had military contracts to supply the plastic bayonets. Victory Plastics had a contract to produce scabbards for the bayonet. All of the bayonets are marked U.S.N Mk. I. on one face near the hilt and on the other side either B.M. or P.B.C. The scabbards are also marked U.S.N. Mk.I. The contract price of the bayonet varied but it ranged from $1.50 and $1.70 and the price of the scabbard was $0.75.





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1941

NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NAVAL INSPECTION SERVICE

INSPECTION MANUAL FOR INSPECTORS OF NAVAL MATERIAL

1941

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1941

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SECTION - C
SECTION - D
SECTION - E
SECTION - F
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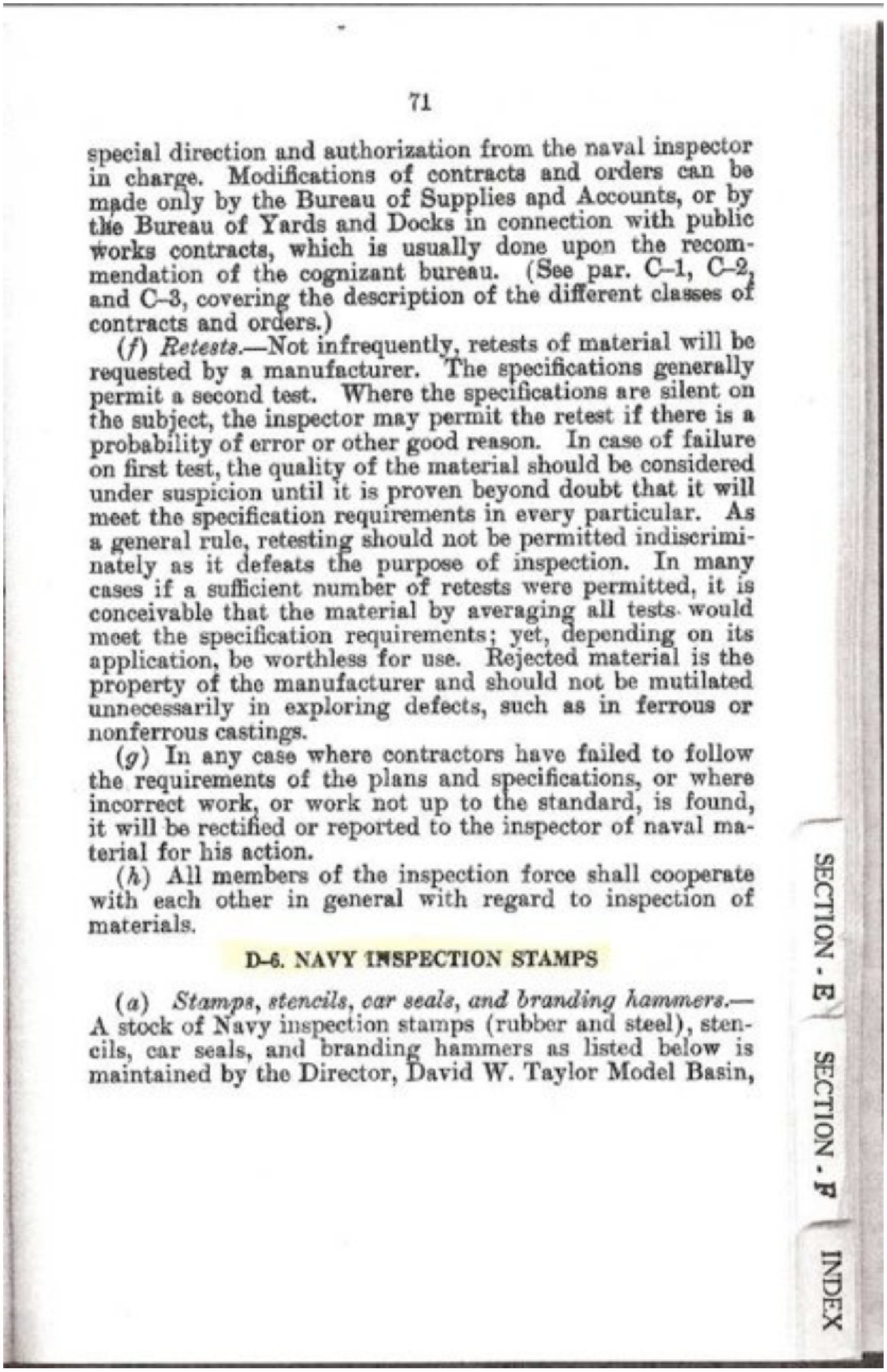

special direction and authorization from the naval inspector in charge. Modifications of contracts and orders can be made only by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, or by the Bureau of Yards and Docks in connection with public works contracts, which is usually done upon the recommendation of the cognizant bureau. (See par. C–1, C–2, and C–3, covering the description of the different classes of contracts and orders.)

(*f*) *Retests.*—Not infrequently, retests of material will be requested by a manufacturer. The specifications generally permit a second test. Where the specifications are silent on the subject, the inspector may permit the retest if there is a probability of error or other good reason. In case of failure on first test, the quality of the material should be considered under suspicion until it is proven beyond doubt that it will meet the specification requirements in every particular. As a general rule, retesting should not be permitted indiscriminately as it defeats the purpose of inspection. In many cases if a sufficient number of retests were permitted, it is conceivable that the material by averaging all tests would meet the specification requirements; yet, depending on its application, be worthless for use. Rejected material is the property of the manufacturer and should not be mutilated unnecessarily in exploring defects, such as in ferrous or nonferrous castings.

(*g*) In any case where contractors have failed to follow the requirements of the plans and specifications, or where incorrect work, or work not up to the standard, is found, it will be rectified or reported to the inspector of naval material for his action.

(*h*) All members of the inspection force shall cooperate with each other in general with regard to inspection of materials.

D–6. NAVY INSPECTION STAMPS

(*a*) *Stamps, stencils, car seals, and branding hammers.*—A stock of Navy inspection stamps (rubber and steel), stencils, car seals, and branding hammers as listed below is maintained by the Director, David W. Taylor Model Basin,

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% Bureau of Ships, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. All requests shall be made direct to that activity by the inspectors of naval material:

(1) The U. S. N. stamp for identification of material undergoing inspection as described later.

(2) The anchor stamp for identification of material which has undergone all the prescribed tests in the presence of an inspector and which has been accepted.

(*b*) *Forms and sizes.*—Both the U. S. N. and the anchor designs are furnished in the following forms and sizes as per sketches on pages following section F.

(1) Steel stamps in $\frac{1}{8}$-, $\frac{3}{16}$-, $\frac{1}{4}$-, and $\frac{3}{8}$-inch sizes for stamping metals.

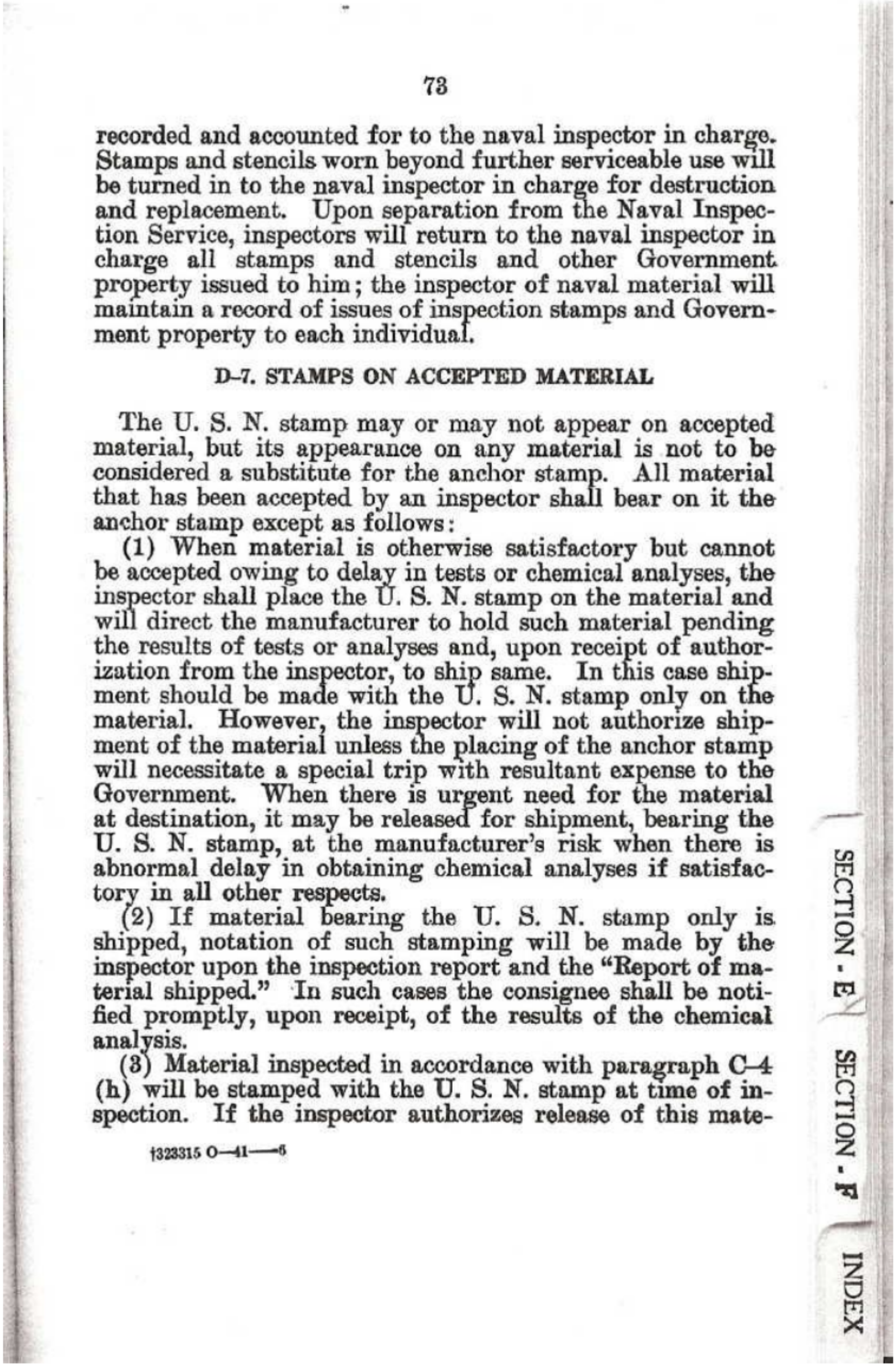
(2) Brass stencils $\frac{1}{2}$- and 1-inch sizes for marking containers on which steel stamps cannot be used.

(3) Steel branding hammers for stamping lumber.

(4) Rubber stamps in $\frac{1}{2}$-inch U. S. N. and 1-inch anchor designs for stamping cartons, containers, paper, linen tags, etc.

(5) Car seals for sealing covered freight carriers or individual packages.

(*c*) *Care of stamps.*—Besides providing an authoritative means for proper identification of inspected materials by consignees, Navy inspection stamps are issued to inspectors for general use in protecting the Government's interest in connection with the inspection of Government contract materials or those purchased by a Government contractor from subcontractors. In view of the definite information which their use represents, inspectors shall keep the stamps and stencils issued to them in their own possession at all times when in use and properly secured or safeguarded when not in use. They will not be given or loaned to any unauthorized person. Under the direct supervision of the inspector, manufacturer's employees may apply the stamps to the material, but, upon completion of stamping, must return them immediately to the inspector. Fraudulent use or intentional misuse of these stamps will be made the subject of disciplinary or other action, as the facts warrant in the case. At such times as he may direct, all issues of stamps will be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recorded and accounted for to the naval inspector in charge. Stamps and stencils worn beyond further serviceable use will be turned in to the naval inspector in charge for destruction and replacement. Upon separation from the Naval Inspection Service, inspectors will return to the naval inspector in charge all stamps and stencils and other Government property issued to him; the inspector of naval material will maintain a record of issues of inspection stamps and Government property to each individual.

D-7. STAMPS ON ACCEPTED MATERIAL

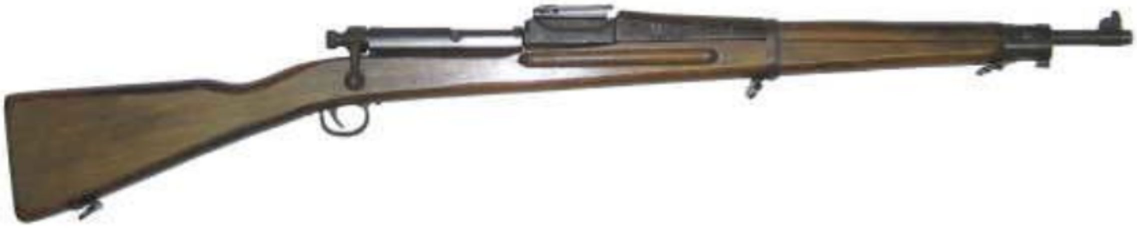
The U. S. N. stamp may or may not appear on accepted material, but its appearance on any material is not to be considered a substitute for the anchor stamp. All material that has been accepted by an inspector shall bear on it the anchor stamp except as follows:

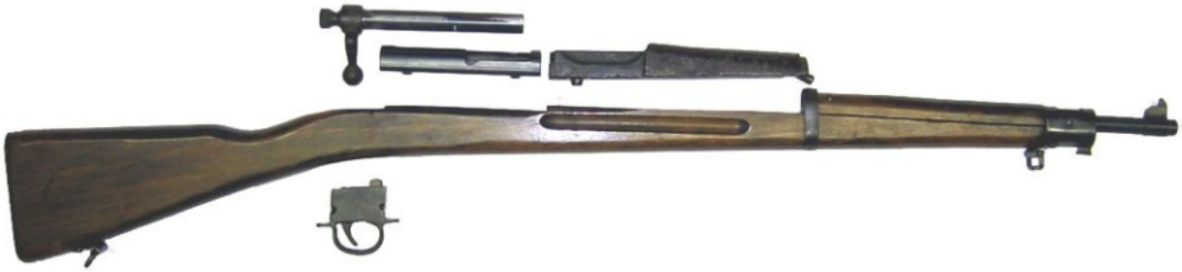
(1) When material is otherwise satisfactory but cannot be accepted owing to delay in tests or chemical analyses, the inspector shall place the U. S. N. stamp on the material and will direct the manufacturer to hold such material pending the results of tests or analyses and, upon receipt of authorization from the inspector, to ship same. In this case shipment should be made with the U. S. N. stamp only on the material. However, the inspector will not authorize shipment of the material unless the placing of the anchor stamp will necessitate a special trip with resultant expense to the Government. When there is urgent need for the material at destination, it may be released for shipment, bearing the U. S. N. stamp, at the manufacturer's risk when there is abnormal delay in obtaining chemical analyses if satisfactory in all other respects.

(2) If material bearing the U. S. N. stamp only is shipped, notation of such stamping will be made by the inspector upon the inspection report and the "Report of material shipped." In such cases the consignee shall be notified promptly, upon receipt, of the results of the chemical analysis.

(3) Material inspected in accordance with paragraph C-4 (h) will be stamped with the U. S. N. stamp at time of inspection. If the inspector authorizes release of this mate-

Parris-Dunn Variant



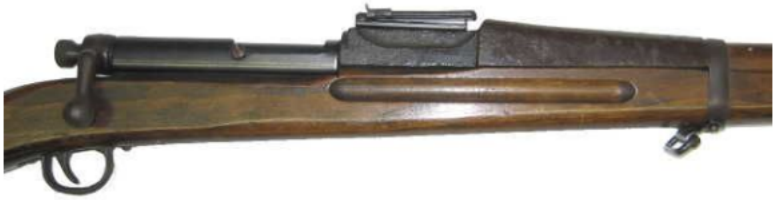


I recently discovered new data which I believe accurately identifies this little known variant of the Parris-Dunn Training Rifle.

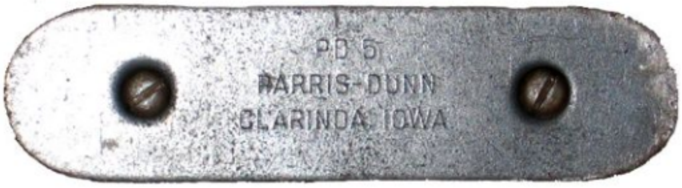
Prior to WWII the Parris-Dunn Corp. was making wind powered electrical generators for the rural market. In 1943 an electrical engineer by the name of Maurice O. Greimann was hired by the Parris-Dunn Corp. to assist in improving and maintaining generators that were already in service. At the time he was hired, the Parris-Dunn Corp. was completing their military contracts for training rifles. In 1984 Mr. Greimann wrote a short article, based on his personal observations of the production of the training rifles. In a newspaper article written by Elaine Armstrong in The Herald Journal - Wed. March 29, 1995, there is information relating to the production of training rifles by the Parris-Dunn Corp. It appears that some, if not all, of the information originally came from Mr. Greimann;'s recollections. In the newspaper article it states, "After the completion of the Navy contract, Parris-Dunn had one other small contract with the Army for a special trainer rifle made so that it was the same weight as the Army's M1.".

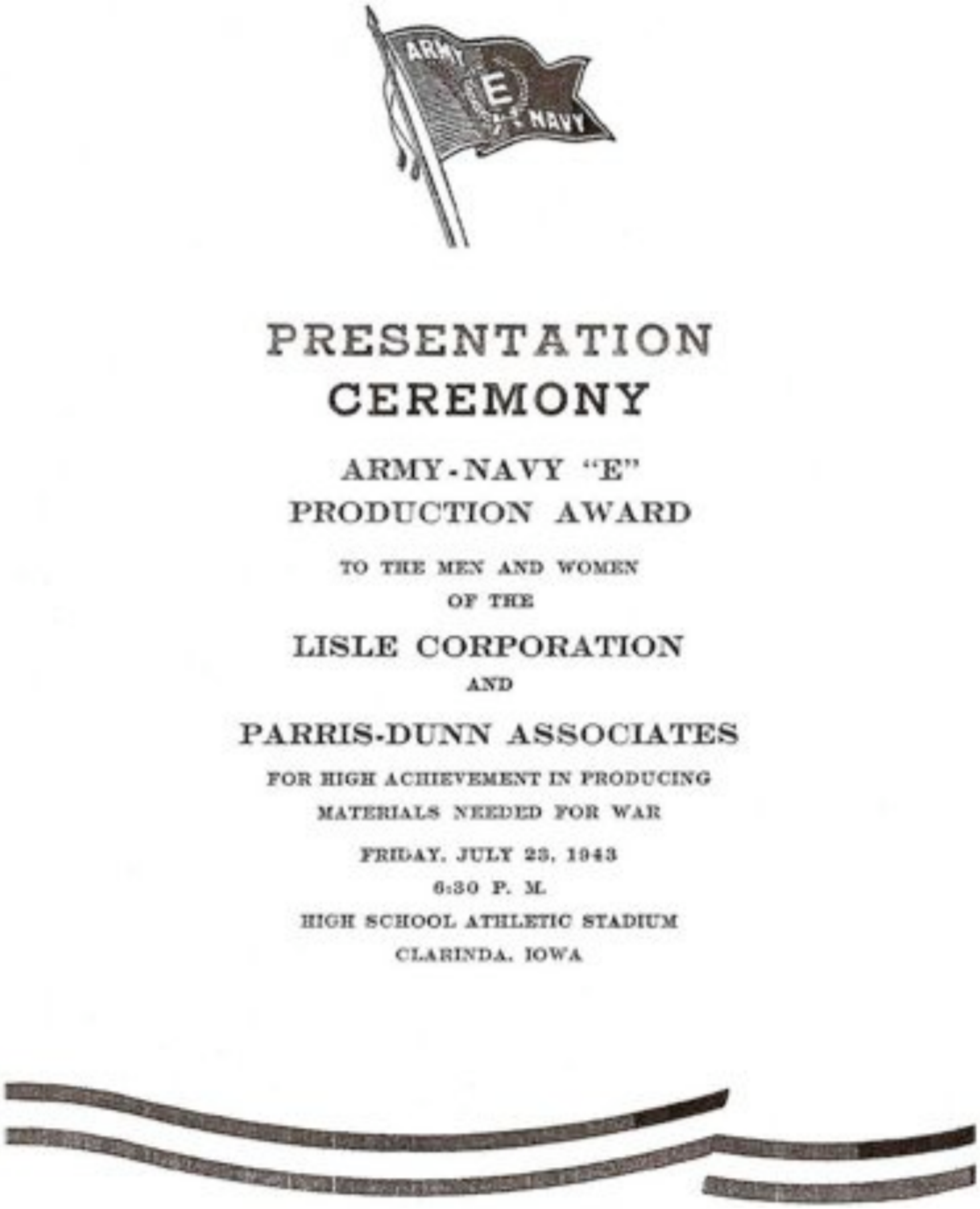
From this information I feel certain that this Parris-Dunn Training Rifle variant is one of those late Army contract training rifles. These were undoubtedly produced in late 1943 or early 1944.

This model is almost identical in appearance to the Navy model with the exception of the cocking knob. The new cocking knob is shaped more like the 1903 Springfield cocking knob. The increase in weight was accomplished by adding a solid steel bolt body and a cast iron upper hand guard. This brought the weight up to nearly 8 pounds. The front portion of the upper hand guard was integral with the wooden forearm but they scored along the bottom edge to make it appear as though it was a separate part.



The butt plate has unique markings that are not found on any other model. The **PD 5** undoubtedly stands for Parris-Dunn and the 5 may stand for a fifth modification in the development process of this model.





PRESENTATION CEREMONY

ARMY-NAVY "E" PRODUCTION AWARD

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE

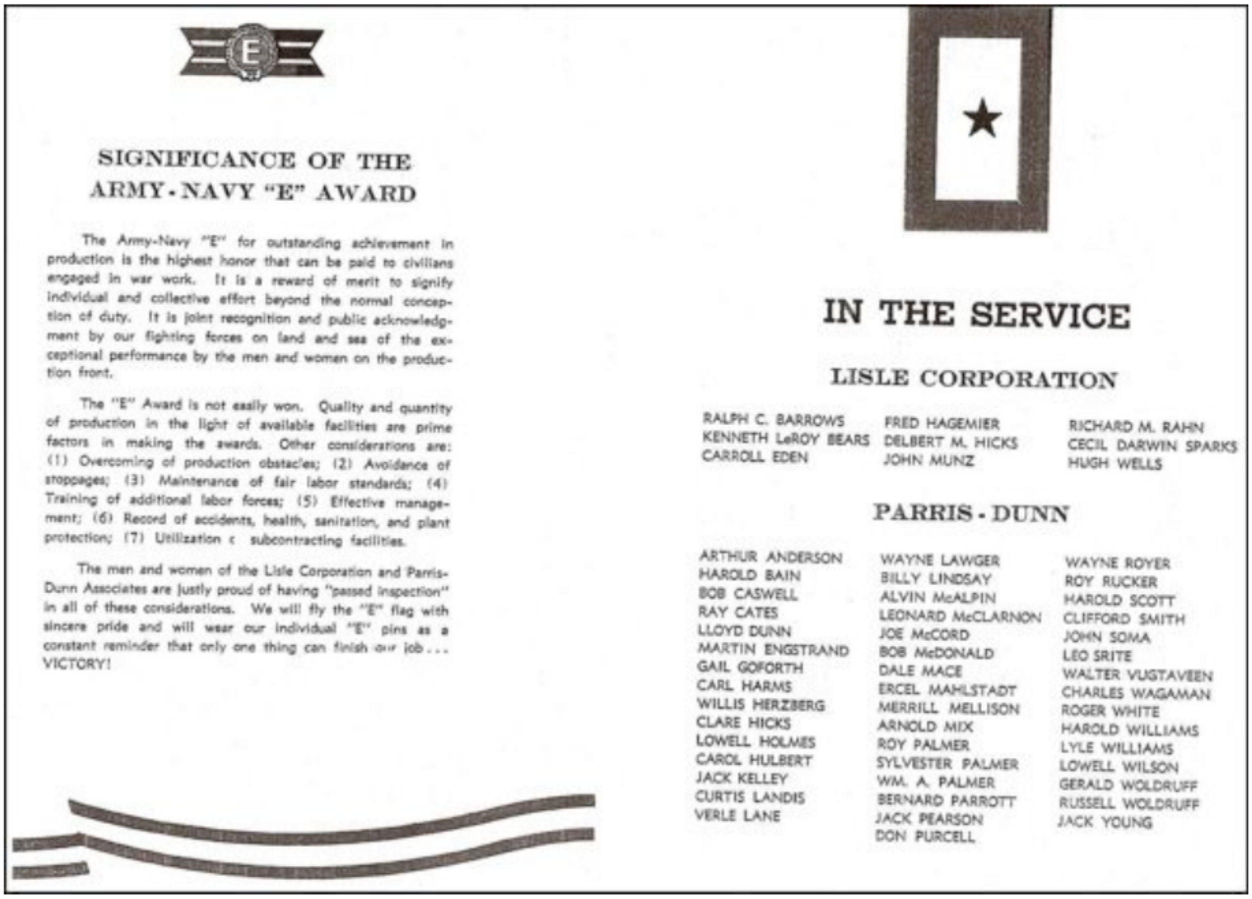
LISLE CORPORATION

AND

PARRIS-DUNN ASSOCIATES

FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN PRODUCING
MATERIALS NEEDED FOR WAR

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1943
6:30 P. M.
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC STADIUM
CLARINDA, IOWA



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARMY-NAVY "E" AWARD

The Army-Navy "E" for outstanding achievement in production is the highest honor that can be paid to civilians engaged in war work. It is a reward of merit to signify individual and collective effort beyond the normal conception of duty. It is joint recognition and public acknowledgment by our fighting forces on land and sea of the exceptional performance by the men and women on the production front.

The "E" Award is not easily won. Quality and quantity of production in the light of available facilities are prime factors in making the awards. Other considerations are: (1) Overcoming of production obstacles; (2) Avoidance of stoppages; (3) Maintenance of fair labor standards; (4) Training of additional labor forces; (5) Effective management; (6) Record of accidents, health, sanitation, and plant protection; (7) Utilization of subcontracting facilities.

The men and women of the Lisle Corporation and Parris-Dunn Associates are justly proud of having "passed inspection" in all of these considerations. We will fly the "E" flag with sincere pride and will wear our individual "E" pins as a constant reminder that only one thing can finish our job . . . VICTORY!

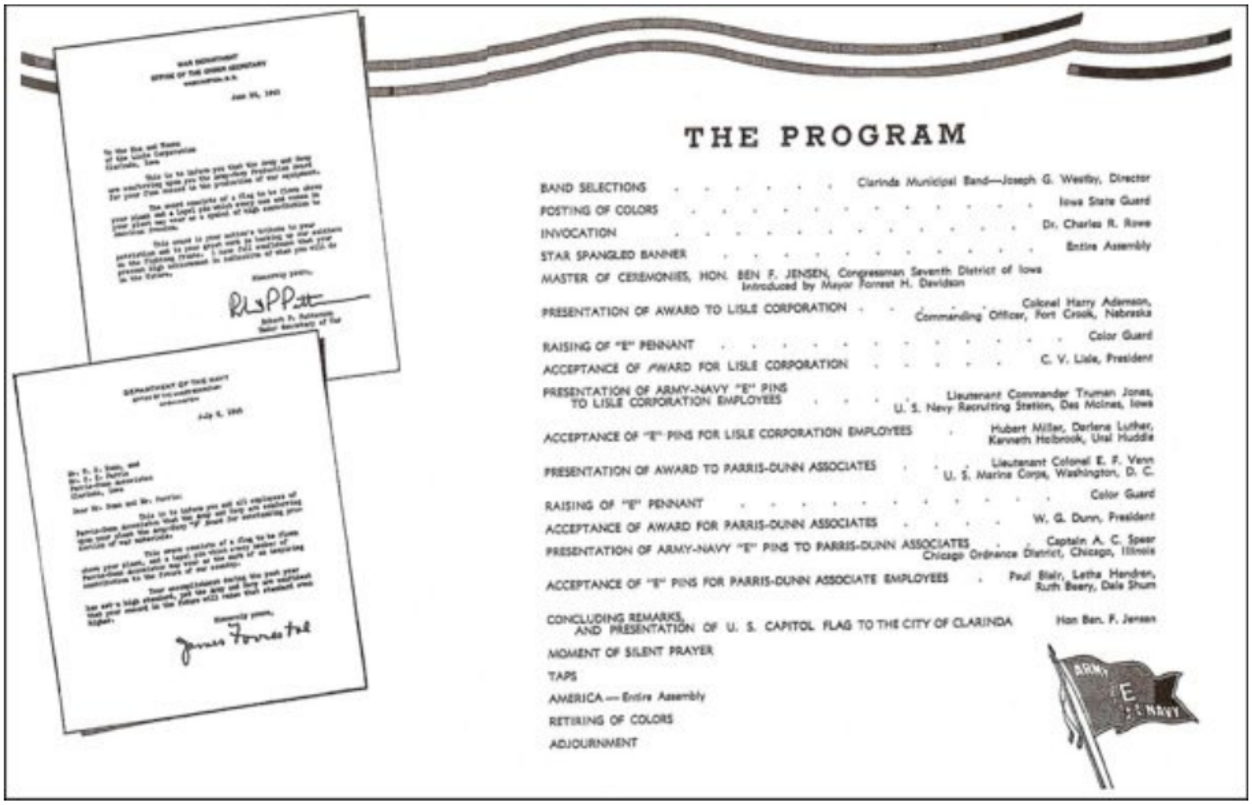
IN THE SERVICE

LISLE CORPORATION

RALPH C. BARROWS
KENNETH LeROY BEARS
CARROLL EDEN
FRED HAGEMIER
DELBERT M. HICKS
JOHN MUNZ
RICHARD M. RAHN
CECIL DARWIN SPARKS
HUGH WELLS

PARRIS-DUNN

ARTHUR ANDERSON
HAROLD BAIN
BOB CASWELL
RAY CATES
LLOYD DUNN
MARTIN ENGSTRAND
GAIL GOFORTH
CARL HARMS
WILLIS HERZBERG
CLARE HICKS
LOWELL HOLMES
CAROL HULBERT
JACK KELLEY
CURTIS LANDIS
VERLE LANE
WAYNE LAWGER
BILLY LINDSAY
ALVIN McALPIN
LEONARD McCLARNON
JOE McCORD
BOB McDONALD
DALE MACE
ERCEL MAHLSTADT
MERRILL MELLISON
ARNOLD MIX
ROY PALMER
SYLVESTER PALMER
WM. A. PALMER
BERNARD PARROTT
JACK PEARSON
DON PURCELL
WAYNE ROYER
ROY RUCKER
HAROLD SCOTT
CLIFFORD SMITH
JOHN SOMA
LEO SRITE
WALTER VUSTAVEEN
CHARLES WAGAMAN
ROGER WHITE
HAROLD WILLIAMS
LYLE WILLIAMS
LOWELL WILSON
GERALD WOLDRUFF
RUSSELL WOLDRUFF
JACK YOUNG



THE PROGRAM

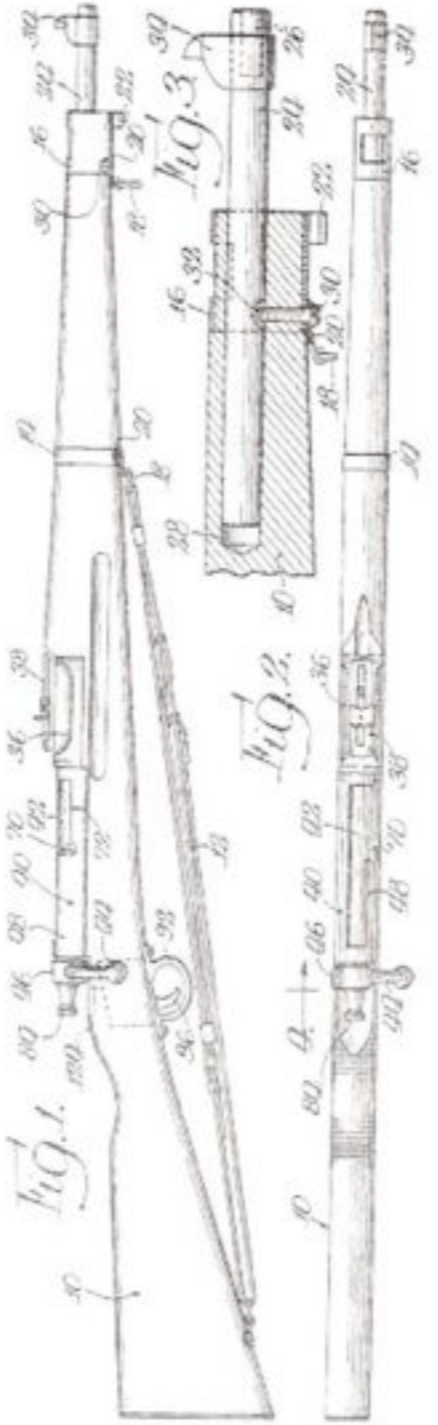
BAND SELECTIONS	Clarinda Municipal Band—Joseph G. Westby, Director
POSTING OF COLORS	Iowa State Guard
INVOCATION	Dr. Charles R. Rowe
STAR SPANGLED BANNER	Entire Assembly
MASTER OF CEREMONIES, HON. BEN F. JENSEN, Congressman Seventh District of Iowa Introduced by Mayor Forrest H. Davidson	
PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO LISLE CORPORATION	Colonel Harry Adamson, Commanding Officer, Fort Crook, Nebraska
RAISING OF "E" PENNANT	Color Guard
ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD FOR LISLE CORPORATION	C. V. Lisle, President
PRESENTATION OF ARMY-NAVY "E" PINS TO LISLE CORPORATION EMPLOYEES	Lieutenant Commander Truman Jones, U. S. Navy Recruiting Station, Des Moines, Iowa
ACCEPTANCE OF "E" PINS FOR LISLE CORPORATION EMPLOYEES	Hubert Miller, Darlene Luther, Kenneth Holbrook, Ural Huddle
PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO PARRIS-DUNN ASSOCIATES	Lieutenant Colonel E. F. Venn U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C.
RAISING OF "E" PENNANT	Color Guard
ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD FOR PARRIS-DUNN ASSOCIATES	W. G. Dunn, President
PRESENTATION OF ARMY-NAVY "E" PINS TO PARRIS-DUNN ASSOCIATES	Captain A. C. Speer Chicago Ordnance District, Chicago, Illinois
ACCEPTANCE OF "E" PINS FOR PARRIS-DUNN ASSOCIATE EMPLOYEES	Paul Blair, Letha Hendren, Ruth Beery, Dale Shum
CONCLUDING REMARKS, AND PRESENTATION OF U. S. CAPITOL FLAG TO THE CITY OF CLARINDA	Hon Ben. F. Jensen

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER
TAPS
AMERICA — Entire Assembly
RETIRING OF COLORS
ADJOURNMENT

Aug. 27, 1946. W. G. DUNN 2,406,493

IMITATION FIRING MECHANISM FOR TRAINING ARMS

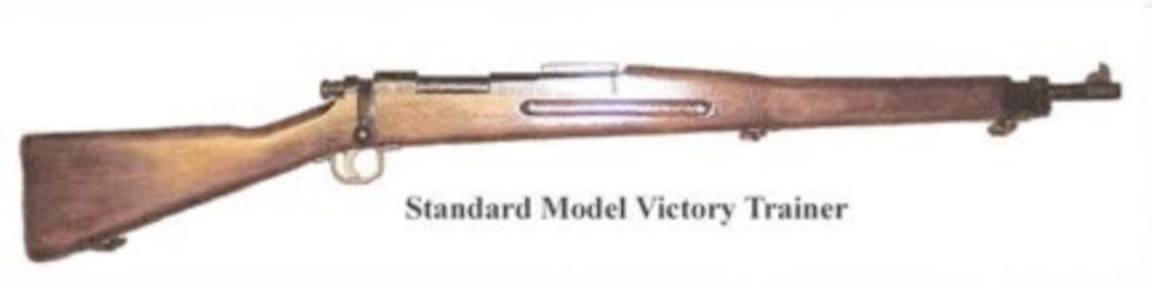
Filed Jan. 8, 1943 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



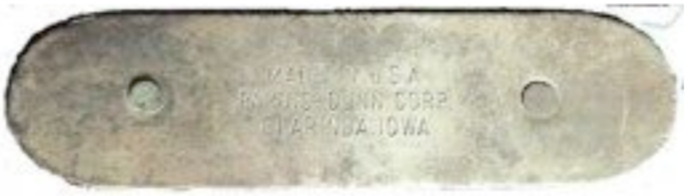
INVENTOR.
William G. Dunn,
BY Bair & Freeman
Attys

Parris-Dunn Corp. - Civilian Drill Rifles

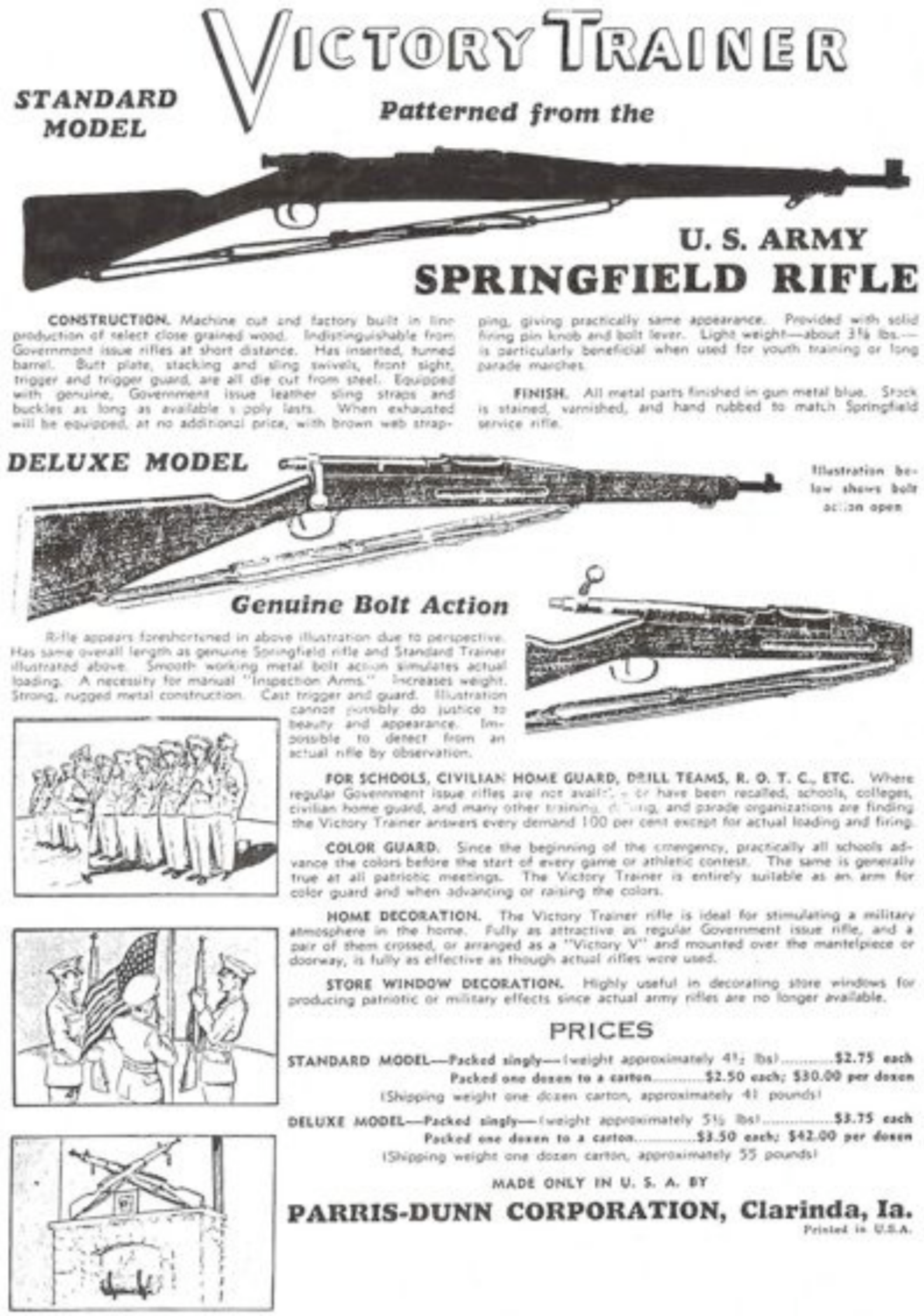
Following the completion of their military contracts for the Parris-Dunn Training Rifle in 1943, they continued making a similar model for the civilian market. In 1949, William Dunn retired and sold the company to Cecil Parris. Parris renamed the company the Parris Manufacturing Company and continued to produce toy guns and drill rifles in Clarinda until 1951. In 1952, he moved the company to Savannah, Tennessee. The company is still located in Savannah and continues to produce a variety of toys.


Standard Model Victory Trainer

The earliest information concerning the civilian production of Parris-Dunn Corp. drill rifles is a flier showing what they called the Victory Trainer. This came in a Standard and Deluxe model. The Standard model has a fixed wooden bolt, a simplified trigger and a raised wooden platform for a rear sight. It was the same size and shape as the Parris-Dunn Training Rifle. The Deluxe model appears to be identical to their military contract Training Rifle. Both of these models have a metal butt plate marked:



In March of 1946 the Parris-Dunn Corp. celebrated the production of their 2 millionth gun. This number included (335,000) military contract training rifles, (200,000) similar civilian models, and (1,465,000) drill rifles and other assorted toy guns. Mr. Greiman indicates that they had production capabilities to produce over 3000 guns a day.



VICTORY TRAINER

STANDARD MODEL

Patterned from the

U. S. ARMY

SPRINGFIELD RIFLE

CONSTRUCTION. Machine cut and factory built in line production of select close grained wood. Indistinguishable from Government issue rifles at short distance. Has inserted, turned barrel. Butt plate, stacking and sling swivels, front sight, trigger and trigger guard, are all die cut from steel. Equipped with genuine, Government issue leather sling straps and buckles as long as available supply lasts. When exhausted will be equipped, at no additional price, with brown web strapping, giving practically same appearance. Provided with solid firing pin knob and bolt lever. Light weight—about 3⅝ lbs.—is particularly beneficial when used for youth training or long parade marches.

FINISH. All metal parts finished in gun metal blue. Stock is stained, varnished, and hand rubbed to match Springfield service rifle.

DELUXE MODEL

Illustration below shows bolt action open

Genuine Bolt Action

Rifle appears foreshortened in above illustration due to perspective. Has same overall length as genuine Springfield rifle and Standard Trainer illustrated above. Smooth working metal bolt action simulates actual loading. A necessity for manual "Inspection Arms." Increases weight. Strong, rugged metal construction. Cast trigger and guard. Illustration cannot possibly do justice to beauty and appearance. Impossible to detect from an actual rifle by observation.

FOR SCHOOLS, CIVILIAN HOME GUARD, DRILL TEAMS, R. O. T. C., ETC. Where regular Government issue rifles are not available or have been recalled, schools, colleges, civilian home guard, and many other training, drilling, and parade organizations are finding the Victory Trainer answers every demand 100 per cent except for actual loading and firing.

COLOR GUARD. Since the beginning of the emergency, practically all schools advance the colors before the start of every game or athletic contest. The same is generally true at all patriotic meetings. The Victory Trainer is entirely suitable as an arm for color guard and when advancing or raising the colors.

HOME DECORATION. The Victory Trainer rifle is ideal for stimulating a military atmosphere in the home. Fully as attractive as regular Government issue rifle, and a pair of them crossed, or arranged as a "Victory V" and mounted over the mantelpiece or doorway, is fully as effective as though actual rifles were used.

STORE WINDOW DECORATION. Highly useful in decorating store windows for producing patriotic or military effects since actual army rifles are no longer available.

PRICES

STANDARD MODEL—Packed singly—(weight approximately 4½ lbs)............**$2.75 each**
Packed one dozen to a carton............$2.50 each; $30.00 per dozen
(Shipping weight one dozen carton, approximately 41 pounds)

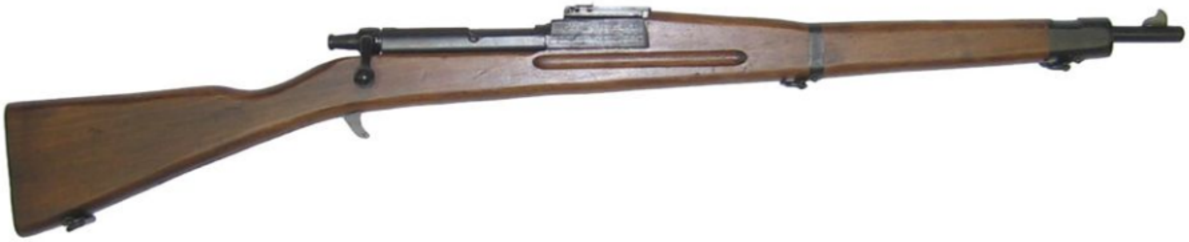
DELUXE MODEL—Packed singly—(weight approximately 5½ lbs)..............**$3.75 each**
Packed one dozen to a carton..............$3.50 each; $42.00 per dozen
(Shipping weight one dozen carton, approximately 55 pounds)

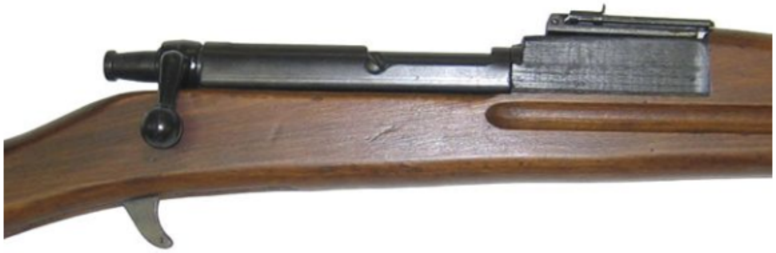
MADE ONLY IN U. S. A. BY

PARRIS-DUNN CORPORATION, Clarinda, Ia.

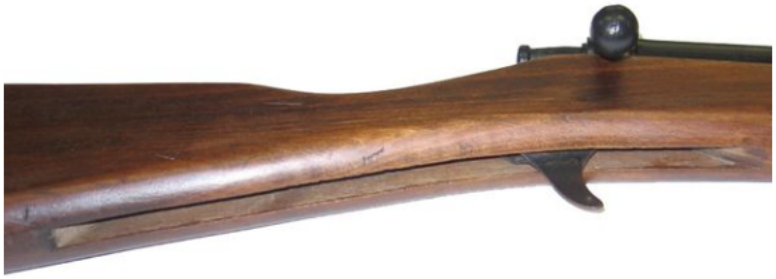
Printed in U.S.A.

Parris-Dunn Transitional

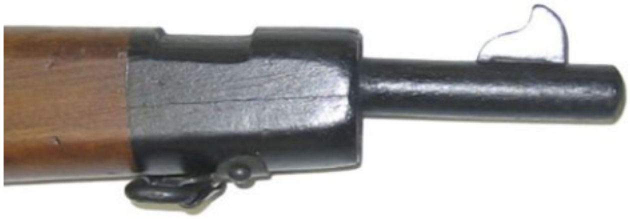




This rifle appears to be a transitional model that has features of the early bolt action Small-Fry Trainerifle toys and the later models having the traditional military bolt action. It is the same size and shape as the Army contract military model which was patterned after the 1903 Springfield. It has no butt plate or trigger guard and there is no evidence that it had any decal in the right so the butt stock. The middle and front barrel bands are painted on. The later full size toy rifles also had a black stripe painted on end of the stock to indicate a butt plate.



It has a clicker trigger that is identical to the early bolt action Small-Fry Trainerifles. This type of trigger has never been found on any other Parris-Dunn full size bolt action rifle.



The barrel is made of wood and has the typical front blade sight that was used on all of the Parris-Dunn Trainerifles. The rear sight is the same as those found on the military models.

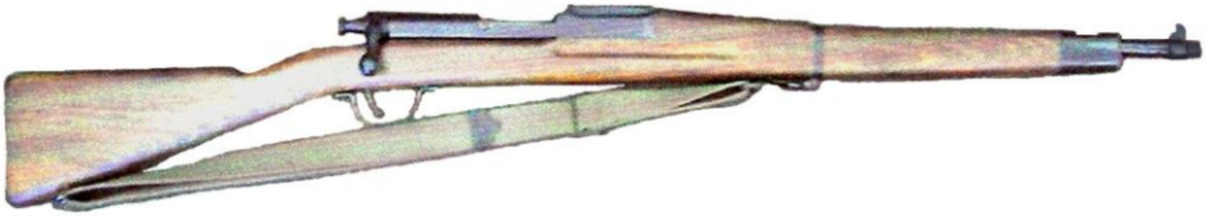
I would guess that this model was made about 1944-45 and probably very few of them still exist. By 1946 all of the full size bolt action toy Trainerifles had a trigger guard and a different shaped trigger. This is certainly an interesting variation of the Parris-Dunn full size bolt action toy line.

Parris-Dunn Training Rifle

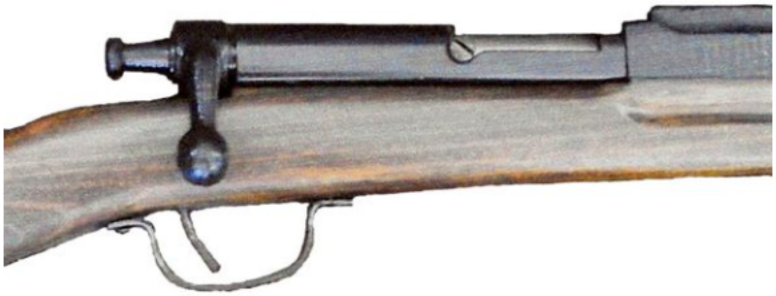
Minor Variations

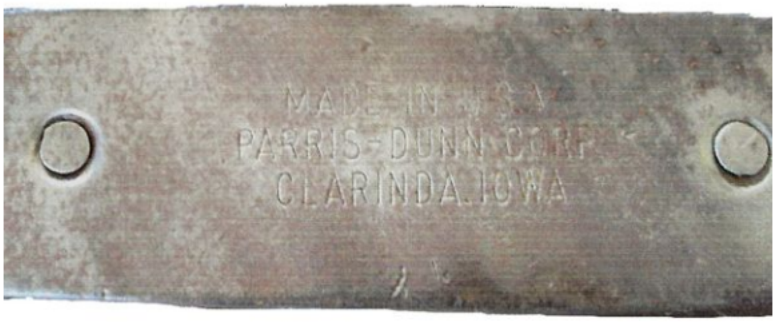
The following information in this section relates to minor variations that have surfaced. Most of these are related to full size training rifles that were either sold on the civilian or toy market. These probably occurred just before the Parris Mfg. Co. was formed in 1949. Most of these variations probably resulted from the need to use up their remaining parts. All of these variations have appeared on more than one specimen. This has eliminated any one of a kind "after market" tinkering by the consumer. On the market, there are literally dozens of military contract rifles that have been modified as perceived up grades. Usually they have decreased the value of the rifle rather than being an improvement.

Parris-Dunn Victory Trainer variant



Two of these rifles have surfaced that appear to be identical. They are the same size and shape as the Victory Trainer 1942 Army model. They are typical of this model with two exceptions. The fixed trigger appears to be made from a slightly bent nail. The trigger guard is made of sheet metal and is attached with nails. The Victory Trainer 1942 model has a stamped sheet metal fixed trigger and a sheet metal trigger guard that is mounted with screws. The Victory model has a metal butt plate that is marked VICTORY TRAINER 1942 P. D. CO. One of the variants has no metal butt plate and the other has a metal butt plate with the following markings. The markings may mean that it was a civilian model of the Victory Trainer.



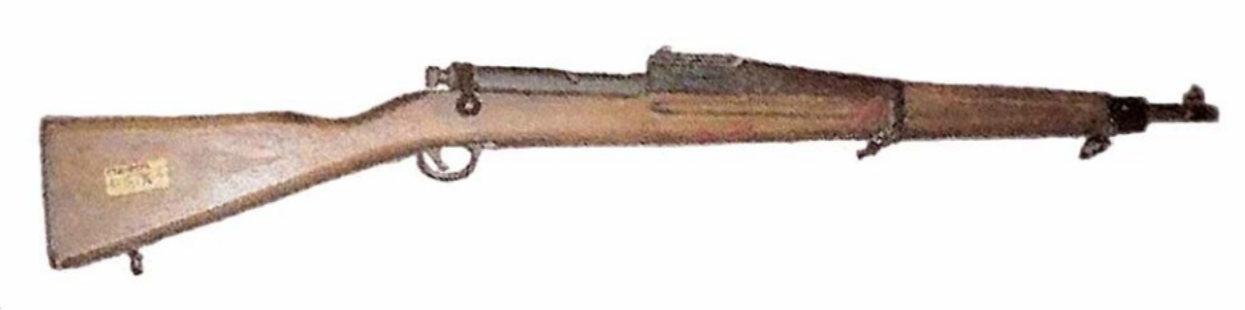


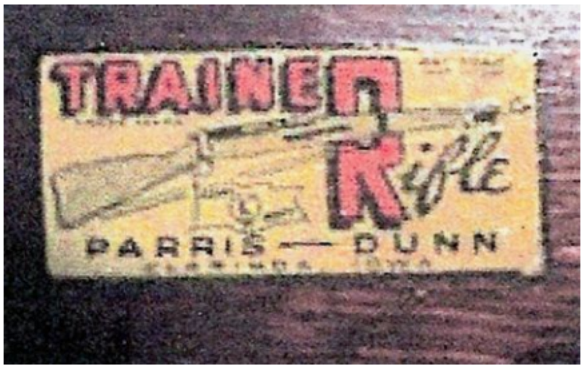
The rear sight is the typical raised wooden platform in front of the receiver. This feature establishes the fact that this is a Victory Trainer model stock. The front sight and wooden barrel clearly identifies them with Parris-Dunn and that they were produced between 1942 and 1949.

It is uncertain why the rifles were produced with these variations. Parris-Dunn may have been using up remaining military parts for commercial sales. It seems likely that these were produced just before the company name was changed to the Parris Mfg. Co. in late 1949.

They certainly were designed to be drill rifles and not toys.

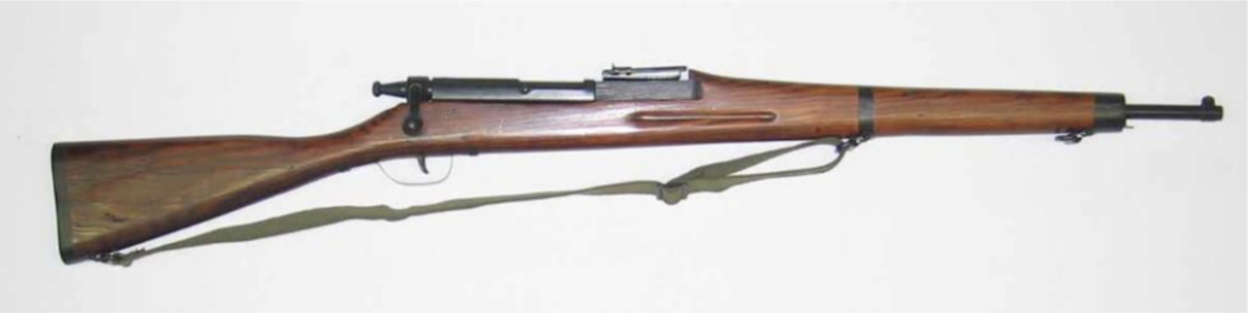
Late Army Contract Training Rifle

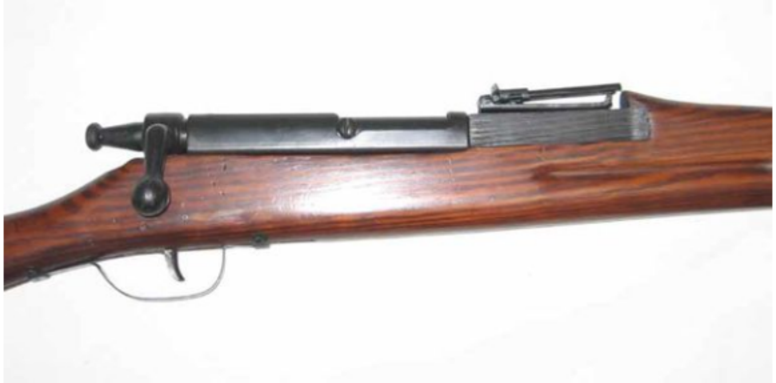




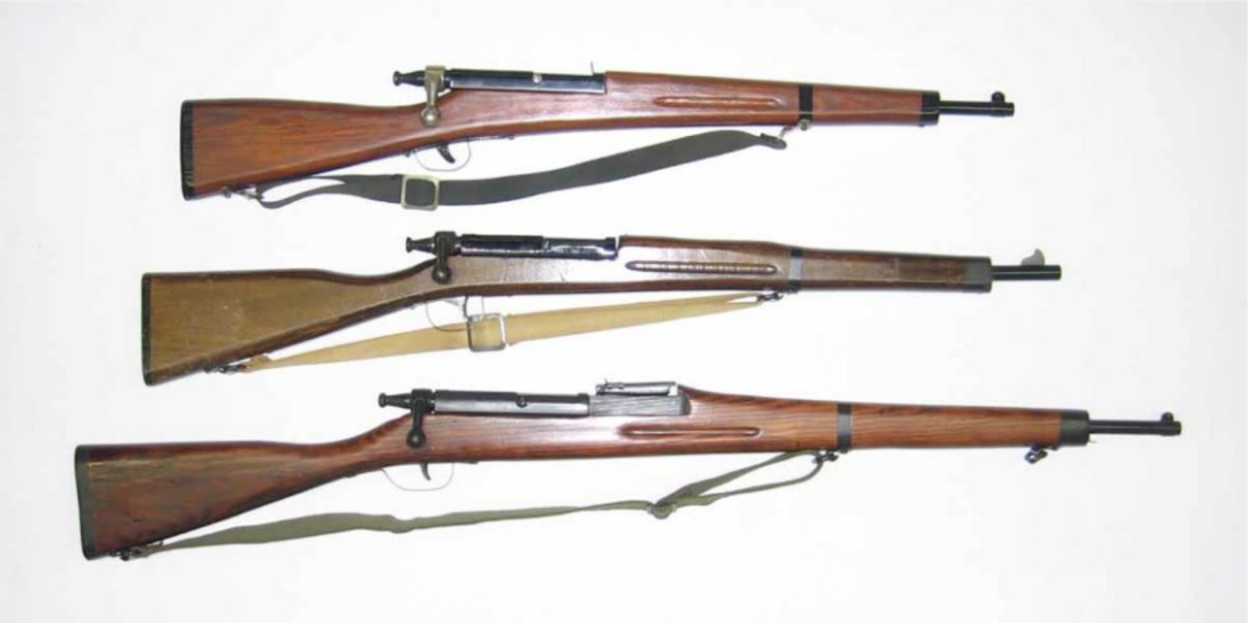
This rifle is unusual in that it has a Parris-Dunn TraineRifle decal on the butt stock. It is identical in every way to the last Army contract rifle. It must be assumed that this specimen was part of an over run and that they were marked with a decal for sale on the toy market. They would have been a poor choice as toys as they were the same weight as the 1903 Springfield service rifle.

Parris Mfg. Co. M-30 TraineRifle

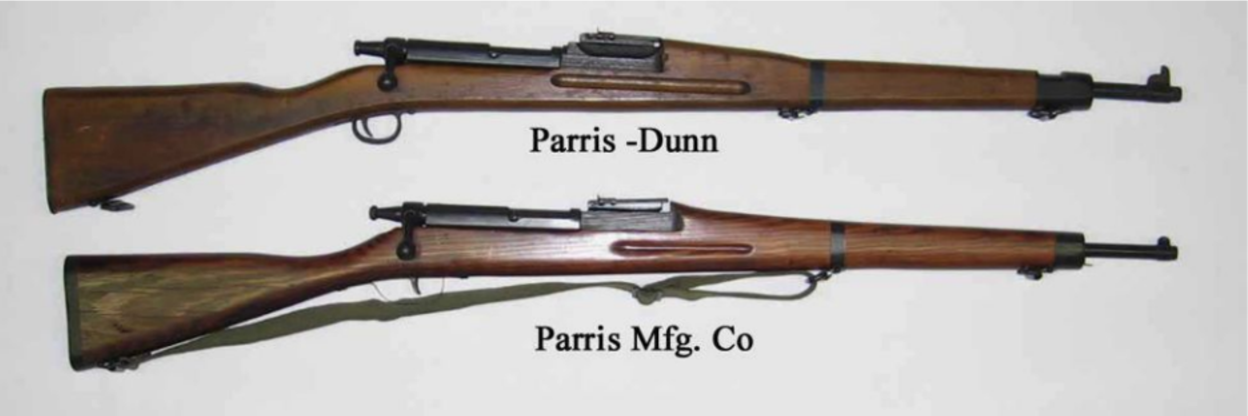




This toy bolt action training rifle was made by the Parris Mfg. Co. It was part of a line of toy rifles that they produced after the company moved from Clarinda, Iowa to Savannah, Tenn.

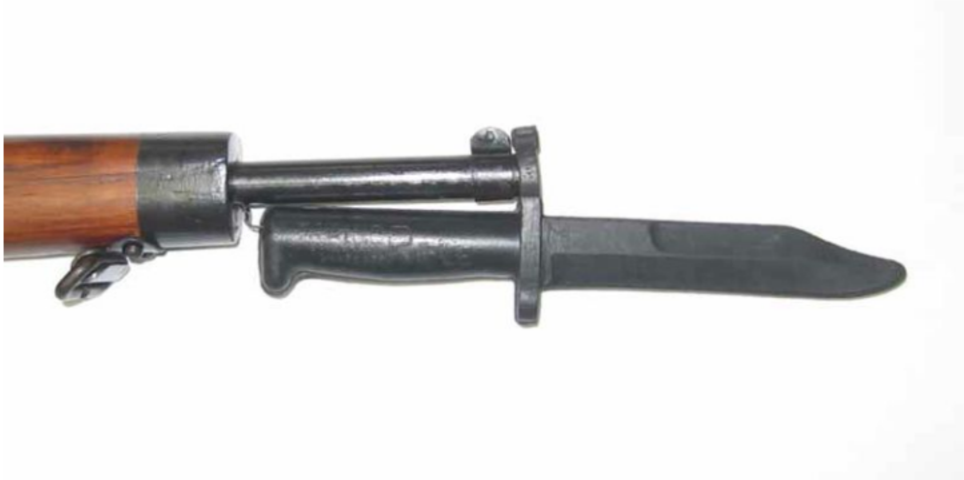


It was the largest in the line and was probably developed primarily for use by the Kadets of America drill teams. It has many of the same characteristics of the earlier Parris-Dunn TraineRifle. The following illustration shows their similarity.



There is a significant difference in the weight and quality of the materials. The stock is made of pine and stained to look like walnut. The front and middle bands are painted black on the wood surface and there is no recess in the top of the front band. There is no metal butt plate. The face and a strip around the butt are painted black. The barrel is a thin metal tube also painted black. The trigger assembly and trigger guard are made of thin sheet metal. The trigger makes a clicking sound when pulled. This is accomplished by snapping a lever over a thin wooden strip. The stacking and sling swivels are very similar to those on the original military training rifles.

This model was designed to carry a rubber bayonet and has a thin metal strip attached to the underside of the barrel to hold the bayonet in place.



One unusual detail is the adjustable rear sight. This sight appears to be identical in material and workmanship to those used on the military contract training rifles. I am certain that every attempt was made to reduce the production costs of these TraineRifles. Most of the TraineRifle production had a decal on the side of the stock. Even when a decal was not applied or has worn off, they are easily identified as being very different from those produced by Parris-Dunn. They were produced from 1955-56 until at least 1970. The current M-30 model that they produce is a much simplified and a slightly shorter version but it retains the familiar bolt action.

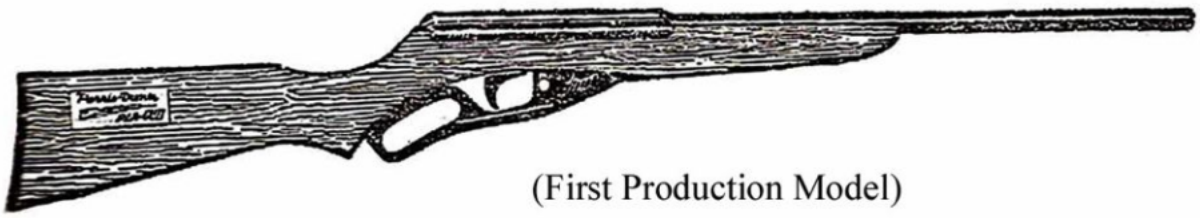
Parris-Dunn Corp. and Parris Mfg. Co. - Toy Drill Rifles

Parris-Dunn Corp. - Toy Drill Rifles

Production records no long exist for either of these companies, so it has been necessary to piece together a chronology using existing specimens, old catalogs and related historical data. I am indebted to Elaine Christiansen at the Nordaway Valley Historical Museum and Tara Winner at the Strong National Museum of Play for their assistance on this topic. Without their help it would not have been possible to locate much of the data. Although I have been researching this topic for several years, it must be recognized that much of this study is based on my opinion and probability rather than hard data.

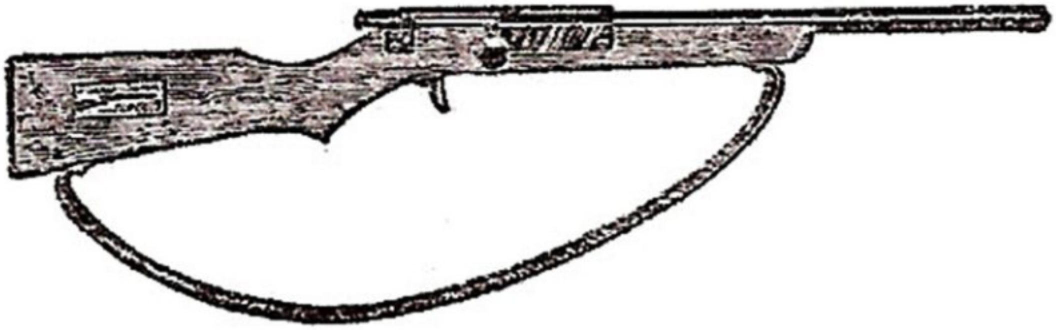
In 1937 William Dunn and Cecil Parris formed a partnership called the Parris-Dunn Corp. William Dunn was an inventor and patented several items related to automobiles and aircraft. When the partnership was formed the company was making wind powered electric generators for farm use. Cecil Parris had a background in sales management and was the driving force in developing a market for the toy rifles that they produced after WWII. Following the completion of their military contracts for training rifles in 1943, an electrical engineer by the name of Maurice O. Greimann was employed by the Parris-Dunn Corp. to upgrade and maintain existing electric generators. Shortly after his arrival he became involved in the design and development of the firing mechanism for the first toy gun that they produced. In 1984 Mr. Greimann wrote a short history of the Parris-Dunn Corp. relating to the production of their military training rifles. His work has been invaluable in providing a first person account of that era.

We know from Mr. Greimann's account that their first toy rifle was a lever action cork shooter that was 31" long and patterned after a cavalry carbine. There are illustrations of these early toy cork shooters in an undated Manual of Arms brochure. This brochure carries the Parris Mfg. Co. name and the Clarinda, Iowa address, which means that it was published sometime between 1949 and 1952 at which time the company moved to Savannah, Tenn. This brochure is the earliest Parris -Dunn toy document that has been located to date. It shows illustrations of their line of toys and identifies the names and model numbers of the toys.



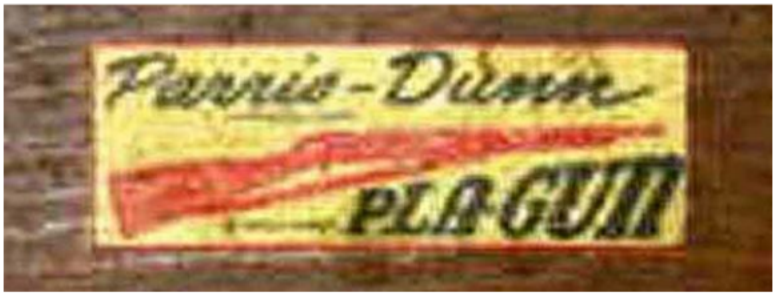
(First Production Model)

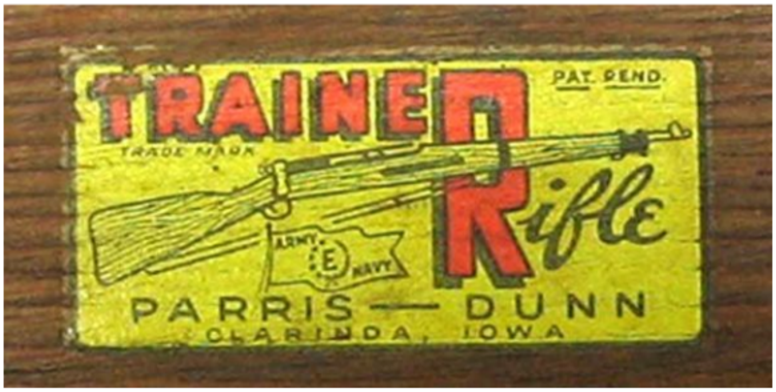
Six of the eight toy rifles are lever action cork shooters. They are basically identical with the exception of their length and the fact that three of them are offered with a web sling. It is highly probable that they were all being produced at the same time, although they have sequential model numbers for identification purposes. The only bolt action model illustrated was the No. 5-A CLICKER TRAINERIFLE.



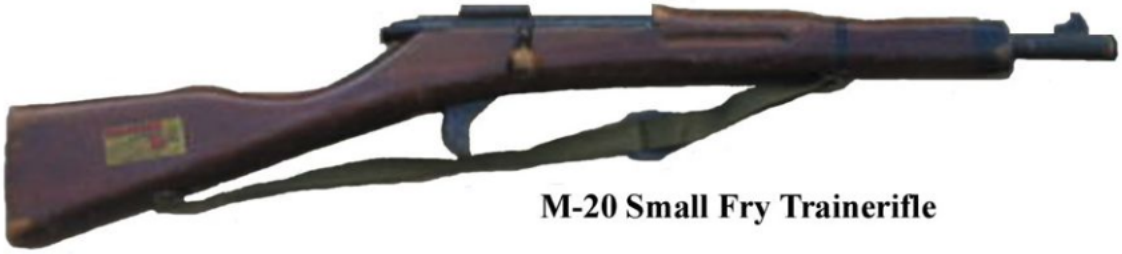
NO. 5-A—CLICKER TRAINERIFLE

This was the first bolt action toy model produced and the action was significantly different from the Parris-Dunn military training rifle action. It was only 23 1/2 inches long. The bolt was made entirely of wood and it was encased in a thin sheet metal action. The trigger snapped over a thin strip of hard wood to produce the clicking sound. This model did not shoot corks. The barrel was made of wood and the gun had no sights. All of the early production toy rifles were generally identified as PLA GUNS and carried a decal that identified them as such. The PLA-GUN decal appears to have only been used for a short period of time and they then standardized on the TRAINERIFLE name and decal. Initially, only those models that had a sling were called Trainerifles. By the late 1940s the Trainerifle decal was used on all of their models.

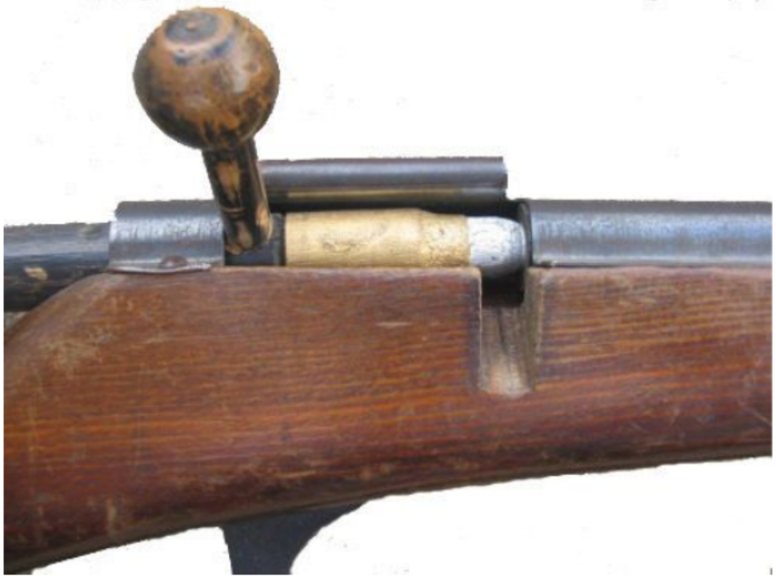




All of the toy rifles that were 22- 23" long were also identified as "SMALL-FRY" models. It appears that there were originally three different lengths of the first bolt action model. These were all produced between 1946 and 1949. The model numbers were No. 5-A (23 1/2"), No. M-20 (27") and the No. M-22 (35"). There were some minor differences in these dimensions during different production runs. These models apparently were discontinued about 1955 as they do not appear in a 1956 Parris Mfg. Co. catalog.

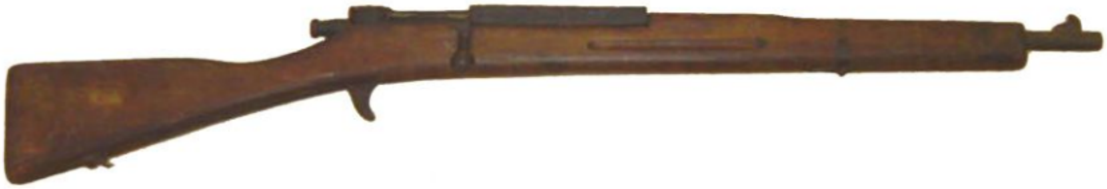


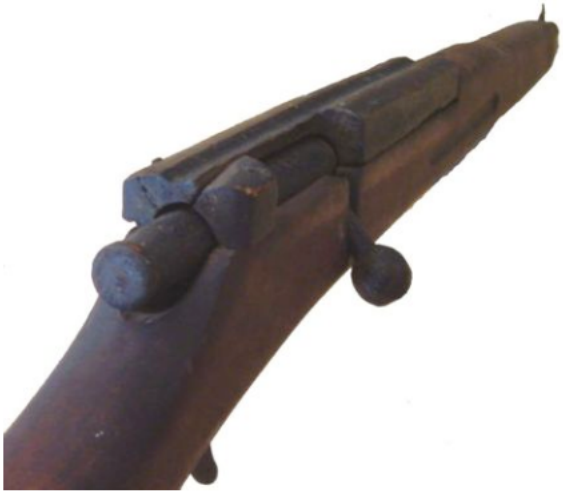
M-20 Small Fry Trainerifle

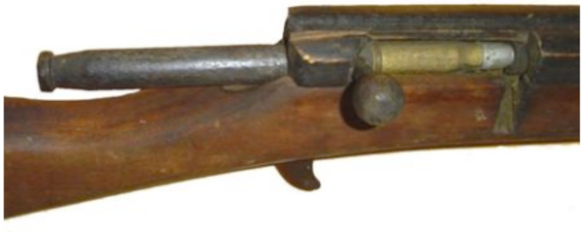


The Model No. M-22 TRAINERIFLE has the same bolt action as the Model 5-A but is 35 1/2 inches long and has a full stock much like the military rifles. This model was introduced sometime between 1947 and 1949 and it was produced by the Parris Mfg. Co. through 1954. It can carry either the Parris-Dunn or Parris Mfg. Co. name and Clarinda, Iowa address on the decal. It also can carry the Parris Mfg. Co. name and the Savannah, Tennessee address. It retained the same clicker trigger and had no trigger guard. It had a fake wooden cartridge on the bolt face that was exposed when the bolt was opened. It appears that the early bolt action models were the first to have this feature. This feature appears on some later models. The M-22 had a web sling like all of the other Trainerifle models.

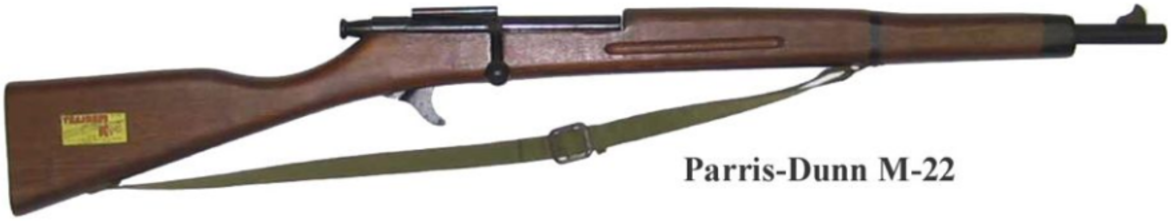
Parris-Dunn Early M-22



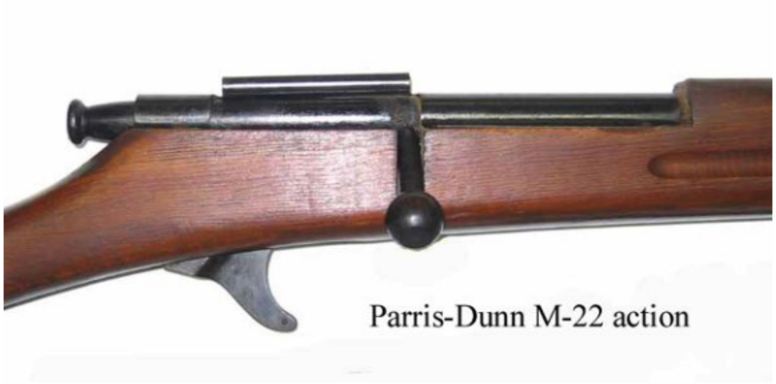




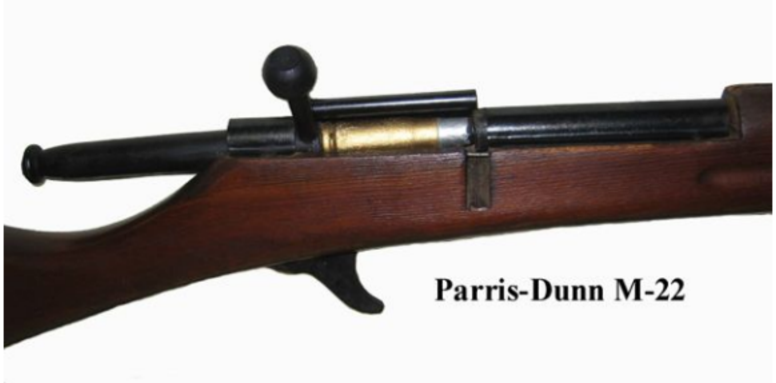
This appears to be a very early model due to the fact that the action is made entirely out of wood. It has a clicker trigger and no trigger guard and has the traditional Parris-Dunn front sight configuration. There is evidence of a decal but it is beyond recognition. It is evident that the wooden action did not withstand much use. I would guess that this was produced during the late 1940's prior to the time that steel became more available. It probably was produced in very small quantities. This is another in the line of odd variations of the early Parris - Dunn toy rifles.



Parris-Dunn M-22

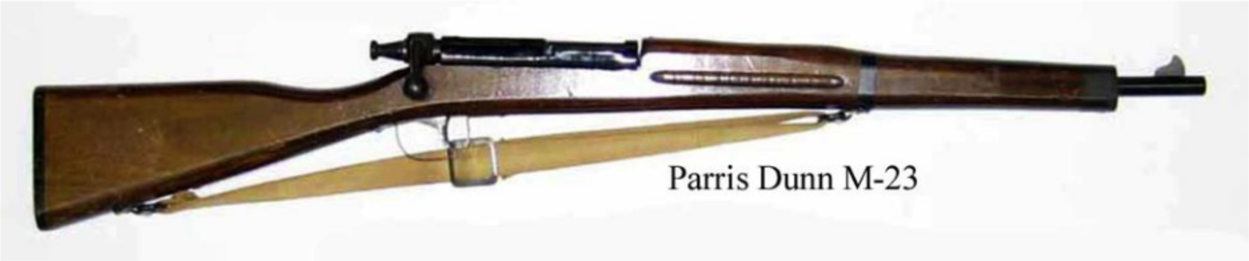


Parris-Dunn M-22 action



Parris-Dunn M-22

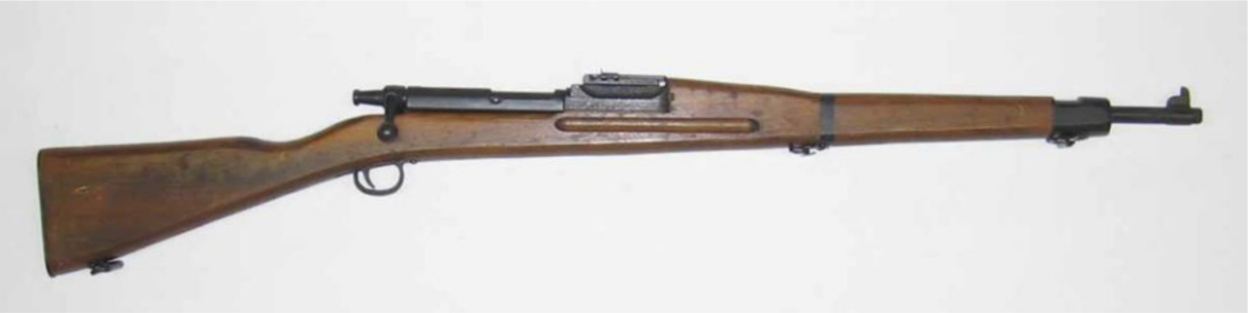
During the same time period, Parris-Dunn also produced a model No. M-23 Trainerifle which was 35” long and was based on the full size bolt action that was used on the military models. This model did not have a fake cartridge on the bolt face. Like all of the clicker models it had a wooden barrel and did not fire corks. It appears that this was the first toy model to use the full size bolt action that had been used on the military training rifles.

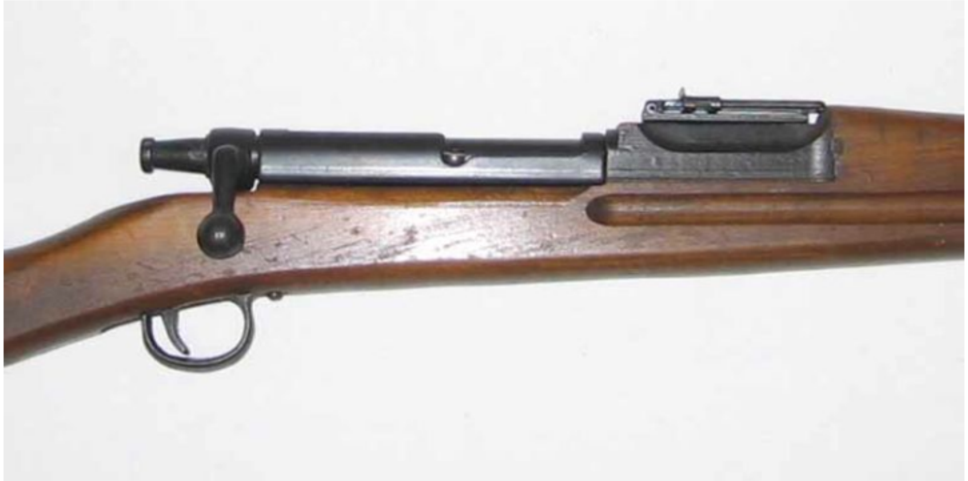


Parris Dunn M-23

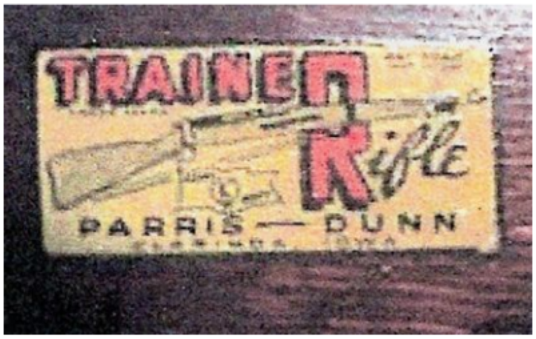
It should also be noted that during the same time period they were producing a full size training rifle that carried the Parris-Dunn toy decal. Even though it carried the toy Trainerifle decal, this model was never listed in their toy catalogs.

Parris-Dunn TraineRifle



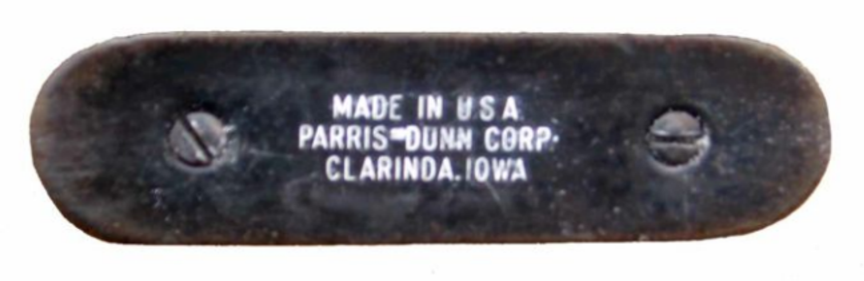


This specimen is the only Parris-Dunn marked toy TraineRifle that I have located that is the same general size and shape as the military models. It appears to be a composite of features taken from both of the military models. It has traces of the original Parris-Dunn decal remaining on the right side of the stock.



The stock has the identical profile and thickness of the Victory 1942 Army model. The radius of the curved surfaces on the top and bottom of the stock is slightly greater than the Army model and is more similar to the Navy model. This tends to make the sides of the stock to look more flat. The finger groove on the fore arm is 7 1/2" long as compared to 6 1/2" on the military models. The front and middle bands are painted on the stock, the barrel is made of wood and there is no bayonet lug which are all features found on the Army model. The wooden barrel on the TraineRifle is 3 5/8" long as compared to a 3 1/4" length on the military models. The swivels, receiver and bolt are identical to the military models. The trigger, trigger guard and adjustable rear sight are identical in appearance and function to the Navy model.

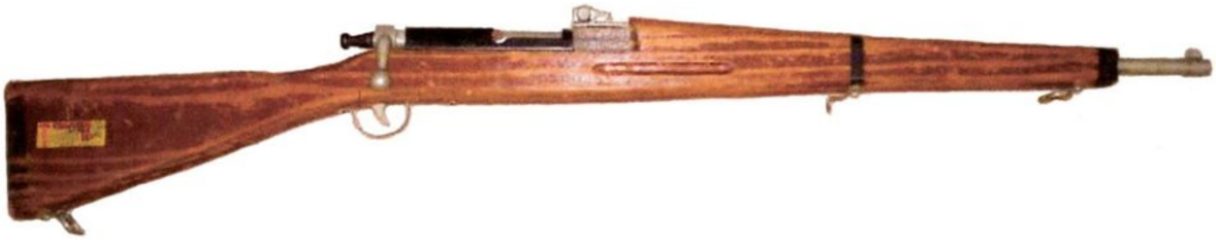
The butt plate is the same size and shape as the Navy model but has different markings.

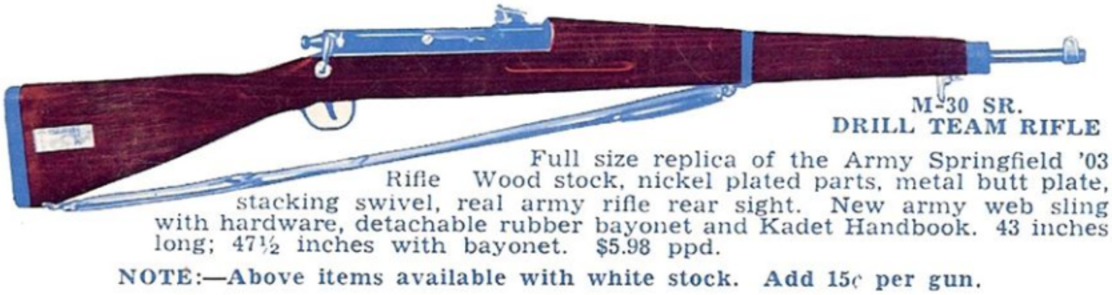


This marking is also found on the Standard and Deluxe models of the Victory Trainer which were made for civilian drill groups following the completion of the military contracts in 1943.

I would guess that this TraineRifle was produced between 1945 and 1948. It appears that Parris-Dunn was attempting to use up the parts that were remaining from their military contracts and decided to add a full size TraineRifle to their toy line. It is interesting to note that this size TraineRifle never appears in any of the Parris-Dunn advertising but surfaces for the first time in the Parris Mfg. Co. advertising in 1956.

Official Kadet Trainerifles



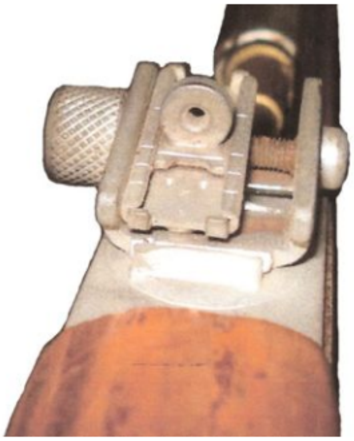


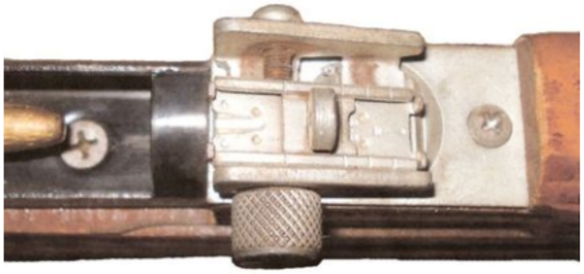
M-30 SR.
DRILL TEAM RIFLE

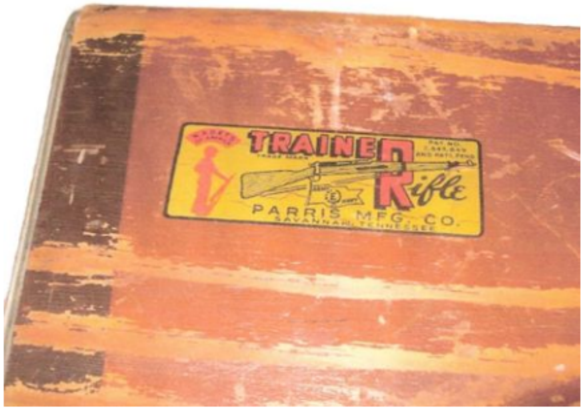
Full size replica of the Army Springfield '03 Rifle Wood stock, nickel plated parts, metal butt plate, stacking swivel, real army rifle rear sight. New army web sling with hardware, detachable rubber bayonet and Kadet Handbook. 43 inches long; 47½ inches with bayonet. $5.98 ppd.

NOTE:—Above items available with white stock. Add 15¢ per gun.

For a period of time in the 1960's the Parris Mfg. Co. produced a line of Official Trainerifles as well as their standard Trainerifles. This line included the K-21, K-23, M-K, and the M-30 model. All of these models had nickle plated metal parts, a better quality sling and their detachable rubber bayonet. The full size model M-30 also had a nickle plated M1 Carbine rear sight. This was the only model to ever have an adjustable rear peep sight. It is unknown how many of these models were actually produced but they are much less common than the standard models.



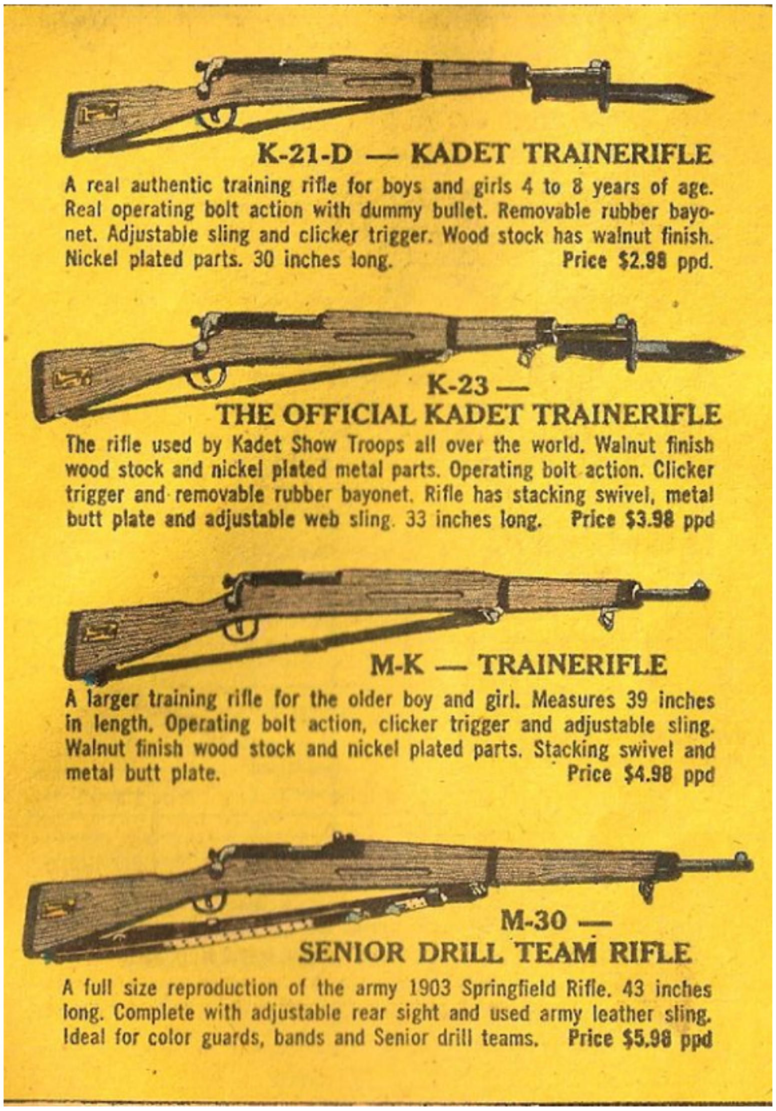



TRAINER
TRADE MARK
Rifle
PARRIS MFG. CO.
SAVANNAH, TENNESSEE

Parris Mfg. Co. - Toy Drill Rifles

In 1952 Cecil Parris moved the company to Savannah, Tennessee. From this point on all of the Trainerifle decals carried the Parris Mfg. Co. name and the Savannah, Tenn. address. In 1953 he started organization called The Kadets of America. It started as a boys organization but later accepted girls as well. Its purpose was to promote self-discipline and leadership through the use of rifle drill. The Kadets were encouraged to form drill units and participate in parades and other civic functions. This was an obvious attempt to sell drill rifles, related uniforms and accessories. That being said, I believe that Mr. Parris had a sincere interest in developing appropriate behavior in young people. The Kadets of America organization stopped functioning in 1970.

After establishing his manufacturing facility in Savannah, Mr. Parris started developing a line of Kadet products. By the late 1950's he was selling four different size bolt action Trainerifles that were based on the full size action that had been used on the military contract rifles made by Parris-Dunn. All of these rifles were non-firing and carried the prefix letter K identifying that it was an official Kadet model. They also produced a standard line of the same rifles that used the prefix letter M that presumably identified it as a Military model.



K-21-D — KADET TRAINERIFLE

A real authentic training rifle for boys and girls 4 to 8 years of age. Real operating bolt action with dummy bullet. Removable rubber bayonet. Adjustable sling and clicker trigger. Wood stock has walnut finish. Nickel plated parts. 30 inches long. Price $2.98 ppd.

K-23 — THE OFFICIAL KADET TRAINERIFLE

The rifle used by Kadet Show Troops all over the world. Walnut finish wood stock and nickel plated metal parts. Operating bolt action. Clicker trigger and removable rubber bayonet. Rifle has stacking swivel, metal butt plate and adjustable web sling. 33 inches long. Price $3.98 ppd

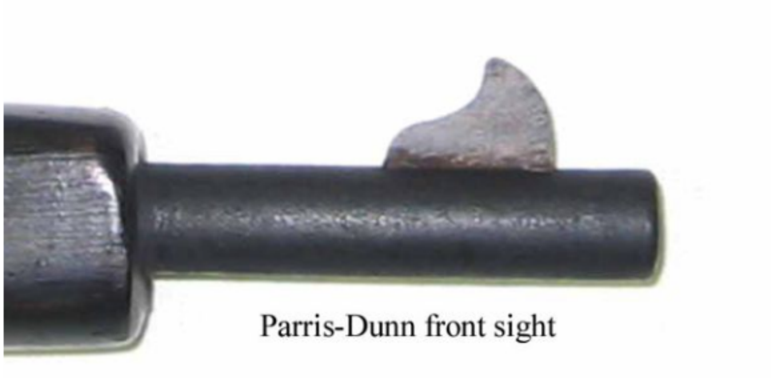
M-K — TRAINERIFLE

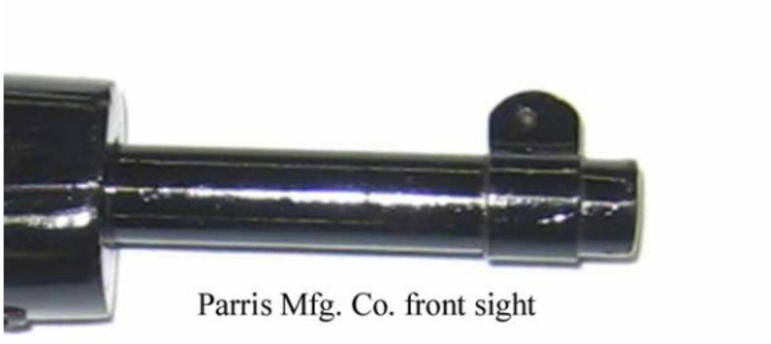
A larger training rifle for the older boy and girl. Measures 39 inches in length. Operating bolt action, clicker trigger and adjustable sling. Walnut finish wood stock and nickel plated parts. Stacking swivel and metal butt plate. Price $4.98 ppd

M-30 — SENIOR DRILL TEAM RIFLE

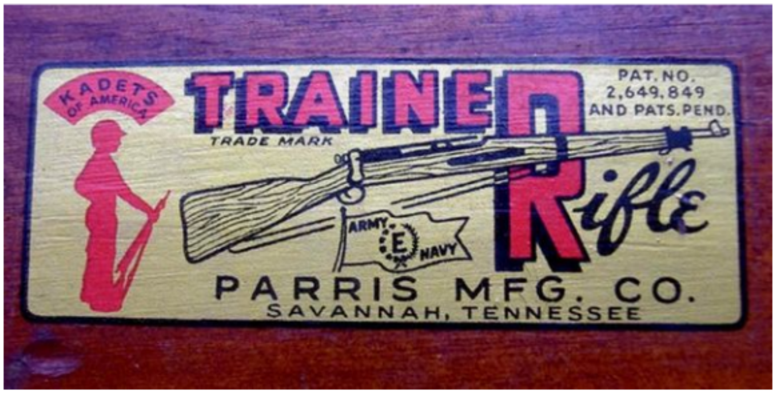
A full size reproduction of the army 1903 Springfield Rifle. 43 inches long. Complete with adjustable rear sight and used army leather sling. Ideal for color guards, bands and Senior drill teams. Price $5.98 ppd

The Kadet models had nickel-plated metal parts and the standard models had blued metal parts. All of these Trainerifles had a bayonet lug and could mount a short rubber bayonet. Some, but not all, of these models had a metal butt plate. Those that did carried the company name and address impressed into the surface of the butt plate. These models had an all metal clicker trigger mechanism. The most prominent change in their appearance was the use of a tubular steel barrel on all of the models. This barrel had a rounded sheet metal front sight. All of the toy guns that were produced by the Parris-Dunn Corp. that had a clicker trigger mechanism had a wooden barrel and curved front sight. Examining the barrel and front sight is the easiest way to determine the maker on unmarked specimens. It should be noted that there are many unmarked toy drill rifles that were produced by the Parris Mfg. Co. Some of these do not appear to have ever been marked and others have had the decal removed at a later date.

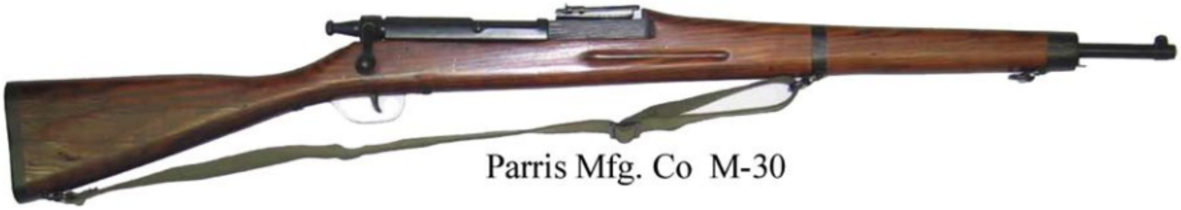

Parris-Dunn front sight

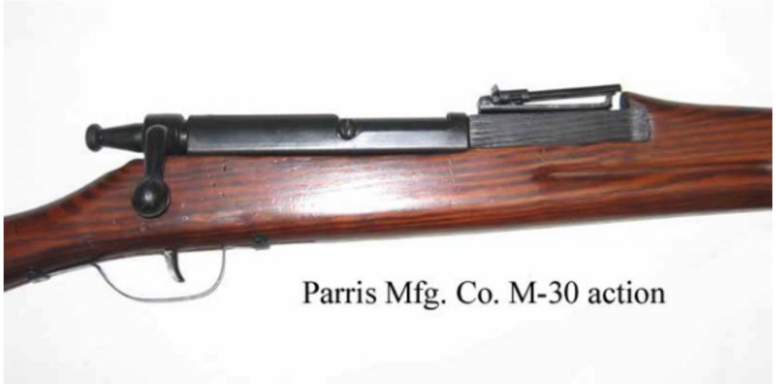

Parris Mfg. Co. front sight

About 1954 they added a Kadets of America logo to the decal.

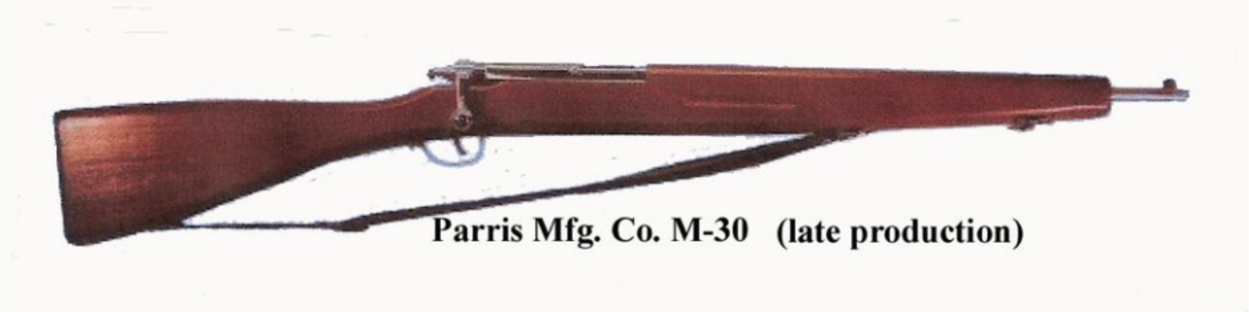


The M-30 full size model came with an adjustable rear sight that was nearly identical with the sight supplied on the Parris-Dunn military models. Some of the smaller models had no rear sight or a very simple tab turned up on the front of the receiver.


Parris Mfg. Co M-30

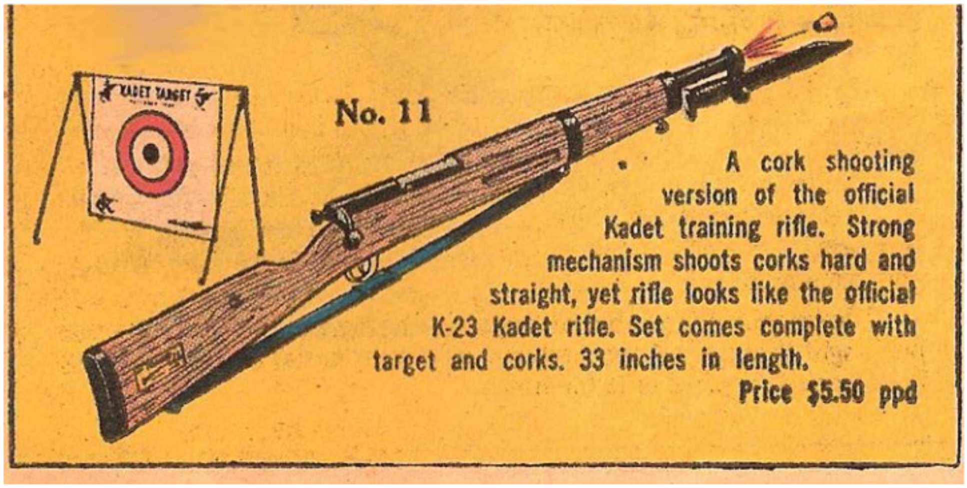

Parris Mfg. Co. M-30 action

These four models were produced until the Kadets of America organization stopped functioning in 1970. At this time, it appears that they went to a less expensive bayonet lug that was a thin strip of metal pressed into the end of the fore arm. It is unknown how long they continued to produce the rubber bayonets. It seems probable that it was about the time of the Vietnam war, as war toys became less popular during this era. They may also have discontinued one or more of the models at this time. A new design for the M-30 rifle was adopted at some point that was a combination of features of the M-K and the older M-30. This new model was about 39 inches in length and somewhat simplified in detail. This model has remained in production to this date.


Parris Mfg. Co. M-30 (late production)

This photograph is of a 1968 coed Penn State Pershing Rifles Drill Team. They are carrying Parris Mfg. Co. drill rifles.

In the late 1950's they also produced a model M-11 Trainerifle that fired corks. This was 33" long and had the same appearance as the K-23. I have never seen a specimen of this model and have no information relating to how long it may have been produced.


KADET TARGET

No. 11

A cork shooting version of the official Kadet training rifle. Strong mechanism shoots corks hard and straight, yet rifle looks like the official K-23 Kadet rifle. Set comes complete with target and corks. 33 inches in length.

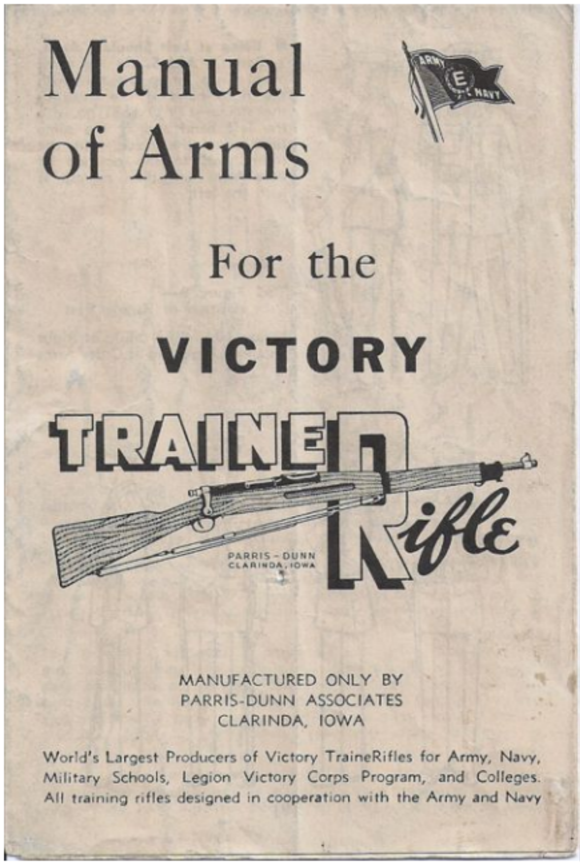
Price $5.50 ppd

Over the years Parris Mfg. Co. has produced proprietary model drill rifles for different companies. These models may have different markings and be slightly different in size. However, they all have the same bolt action design that is easily identifiable.

In various sources there has been production figures published. I believe that most of them to be an exaggeration. Some of them show that between 1941 and 1946 the Parris-Dunn Corp. produced 2 million rifles. I have found no data to date that supports this figure. Even assuming that they worked 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for five years, this results in a very high daily output. Since there are no longer any production figures for either Parris-Dunn or the Parris Mfg. Co., I doubt that this will ever be resolved. There is no question that there was a high demand for their toy rifles after the war and that they were produced great quantity. The military contract figures are well documented and can be found in another section of this study. These figures are also much lower than many of the published figures.

Victory TrainerRifle
Manual of Arms

I am indebted to Christopher Smith for the following information. He allowed me to copy an original brochure that was produced by the Parris-Dunn Associates in Clarinda, Iowa. This is interesting in that it provides information relating to the production of the civilian Victory Trainer from 1943-49.



Manual of Arms

For the

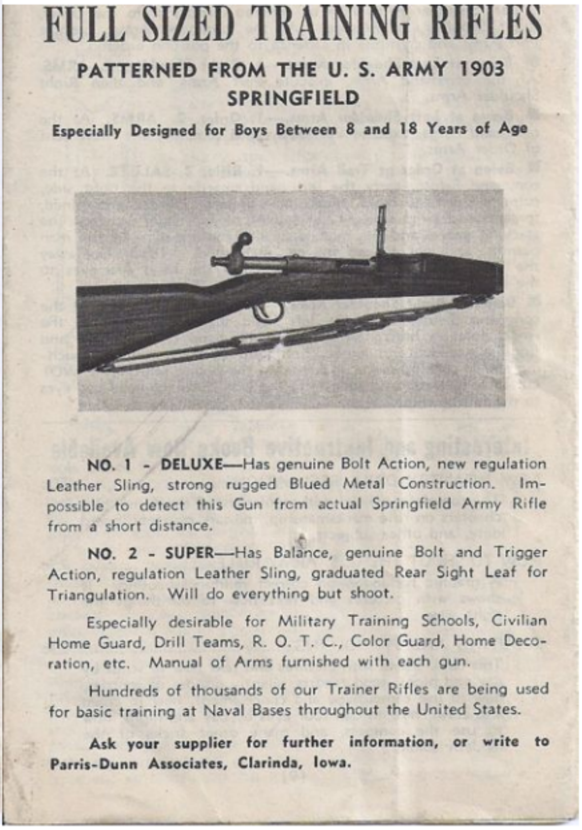
VICTORY

TRAINERifle

PARRIS-DUNN
CLARINDA, IOWA

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY
PARRIS-DUNN ASSOCIATES
CLARINDA, IOWA

World's Largest Producers of Victory TraineRifles for Army, Navy, Military Schools, Legion Victory Corps Program, and Colleges. All training rifles designed in cooperation with the Army and Navy



FULL SIZED TRAINING RIFLES

PATTERNED FROM THE U. S. ARMY 1903
SPRINGFIELD

Especially Designed for Boys Between 8 and 18 Years of Age

NO. 1 - DELUXE—Has genuine Bolt Action, new regulation Leather Sling, strong rugged Blued Metal Construction. Impossible to detect this Gun from actual Springfield Army Rifle from a short distance.

NO. 2 - SUPER—Has Balance, genuine Bolt and Trigger Action, regulation Leather Sling, graduated Rear Sight Leaf for Triangulation. Will do everything but shoot.

Especially desirable for Military Training Schools, Civilian Home Guard, Drill Teams, R. O. T. C., Color Guard, Home Decoration, etc. Manual of Arms furnished with each gun.

Hundreds of thousands of our Trainer Rifles are being used for basic training at Naval Bases throughout the United States.

Ask your supplier for further information, or write to Parris-Dunn Associates, Clarinda, Iowa.

William Dunn and Cecil Parris formed a partnership in 1937 called the Parris-Dunn Corporation. William Dunn Retired in 1949 and sold his half of the partnership to Cecil Parris. Following this date the company was called the Parris Manufacturing. Co. Parris continued to operate in Clarinda, Iowa from 1949-1952. In 1952 Parris moved the company to Savannah, Tennessee.

At the start of their military contracts for training rifles in 1941, Parris-Dunn recognized that they did not haves sufficient staff to produce the number of training rifles in the time required. They put together an organization "doing business as" Parris-Dunn Associates, which was made up of several business men from the area. They combined their resources and facilities as well as hiring 14 subcontractors by the time they started production. The Army - Navy E award that they received from the government was in the name of Parris-Dunn Associates.

It is uncertain exactly when the Parris-Dunn Associates stopped doing business but it probably was at the end of the war in 1945. From the completion of the military contracts in 1943 through 1945 they continued to produce training rifles for civilian use.

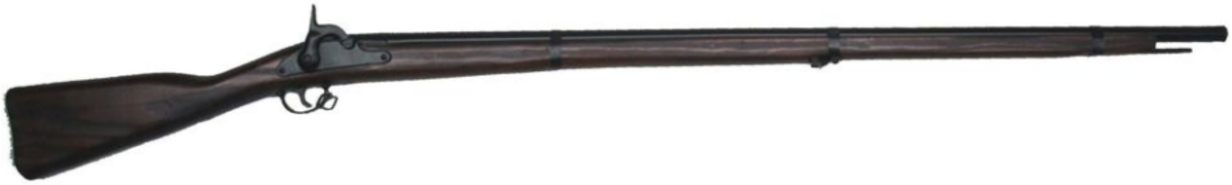
This new brochure indicates that there were two full size models manufactured by the Parris-Dunn Associates, Clarinda, Iowa. These models are described as Deluxe and Super, both of which have a functional bolt action. This brochure is undated, but the company name would imply that it was produced some time between 1943 and 1945. During this period they would have had access to parts over runs from their military contracts. This would have resulted in both models being very similar to the military contract training rifles.

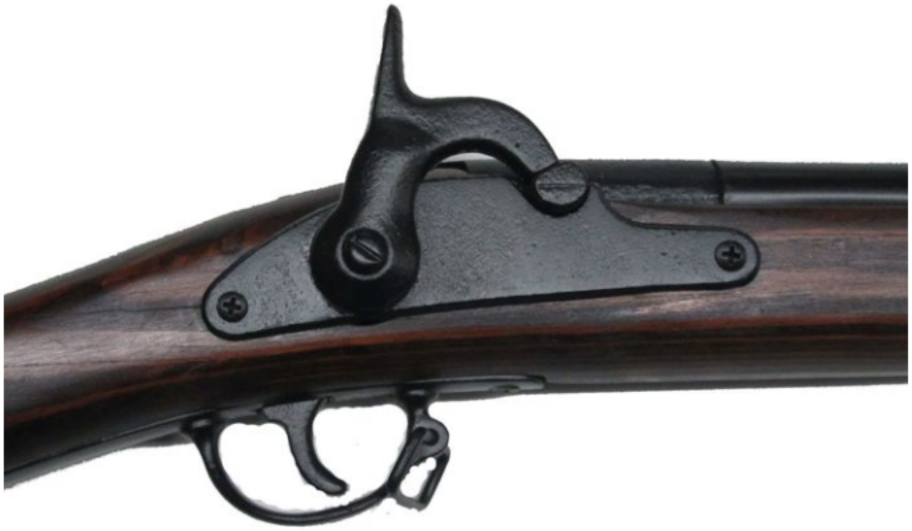
It should be noted that this is probably the earliest use of the TraineRifle logo. However, it does not appear that this logo was used on all of the Victory Trainers.

There is an undated advertisement for the Victory Trainer that bears the name Parris-Dunn

Corporation, Clarinda Iowa. This ad shows two models of the Victory Trainer. The Standard Model was simplified and had a non-functional wooden bolt action. The deluxe Model was very much like the military models with a functional bolt. In all probability these were produced between 1945 and 1949.

MODEL 1861 PARADE MUSKET





Very little is known about this musket. My comments are speculation but are based on several observations. I suspect that they were produced by the Parris Manufacturing Co. in Tennessee in the 1960’s. It has the same dimensions as the 1861 Springfield musket. The lock plate, hammer and trigger guard are made of cast iron using original Springfield parts for patterns. The barrel is a thin sheet metal tube that is attached to a short cast iron breech section. It has no sights. The barrel bands are also made from strips of thin sheet metal. The lock plate and trigger guard are attached to the stock using Philips head screws. The stock is made from coarse grain southern pine and stained dark. The stock thickness and profile closely match the Springfield stock. A short wooden ramrod is attached to the forearm of the stock and is not movable. The hammer and trigger are movable and can be cocked and released in the normal manner. It would be possible to fire paper caps when the hammer strikes the bolster. However, I doubt that this was a design feature or a useful practice. The gun has no markings of any kind.

There are several things to suggest that it was produced by the Parris Manufacturing Co. The stock is made for the same type of wood as their toy gun line. The Philips head screws are a similar size to the ones used on their toy rifle line. The tubular sheet metal barrel is similar to barrels in their toy line. The sling swivels are full size and the front sling swivel is identical to those used on their bolt action toy line. They probably came with a tan carrying strap similar to their bolt action guns. There is no metal butt plate but a simulated butt plate is painted on with black paint. This is similar to the bolt action toy guns that they produced.

It seems probable that these muskets were produced in 1961 on the Centennial of the start of the Civil War. I suspect that there would have been a demand for replica muskets for parade use at that time. They seem to be rather scarce as I have only seen one or two of these in recent years. I have no idea of the quantity produced or the selling price of these Parade muskets. The only thing that I am certain of is that they were not produced for sale as toys, as they are too large for that use.

Rubber Bayonets

Trainerifle Rubber Bayonet

I have spent considerable time and have made many contacts in the toy field and have found no definitive information relating to the production of the rubber bayonets that were used on the Parris Mfg.

Co TraineRifle and Daisy Sport Trainer. Neither company produced the rubber bayonets and, at this time, have no record of who produced them.

The Daisy Sport Trainer Model 634 was produced from 1966 through 1969 and all of this production had a bayonet lug on the fore arm. In a Parris Mfg. Co. catalog dated 1954, it shows a rubber bayonet and indicates that it's "A Real Hit! For '54". From this I would assume that 1954 was the first year that the rubber bayonet was available. It also indicates that this rubber bayonet could be used with three different lever action TraineRifles. A 1960 advertisement clearly shows these and several other models with a rubber bayonet mounted on the barrel. It is unknown when Parris stopped providing a bayonet. It seems most likely that it would have been around the time of the Vietnam war.

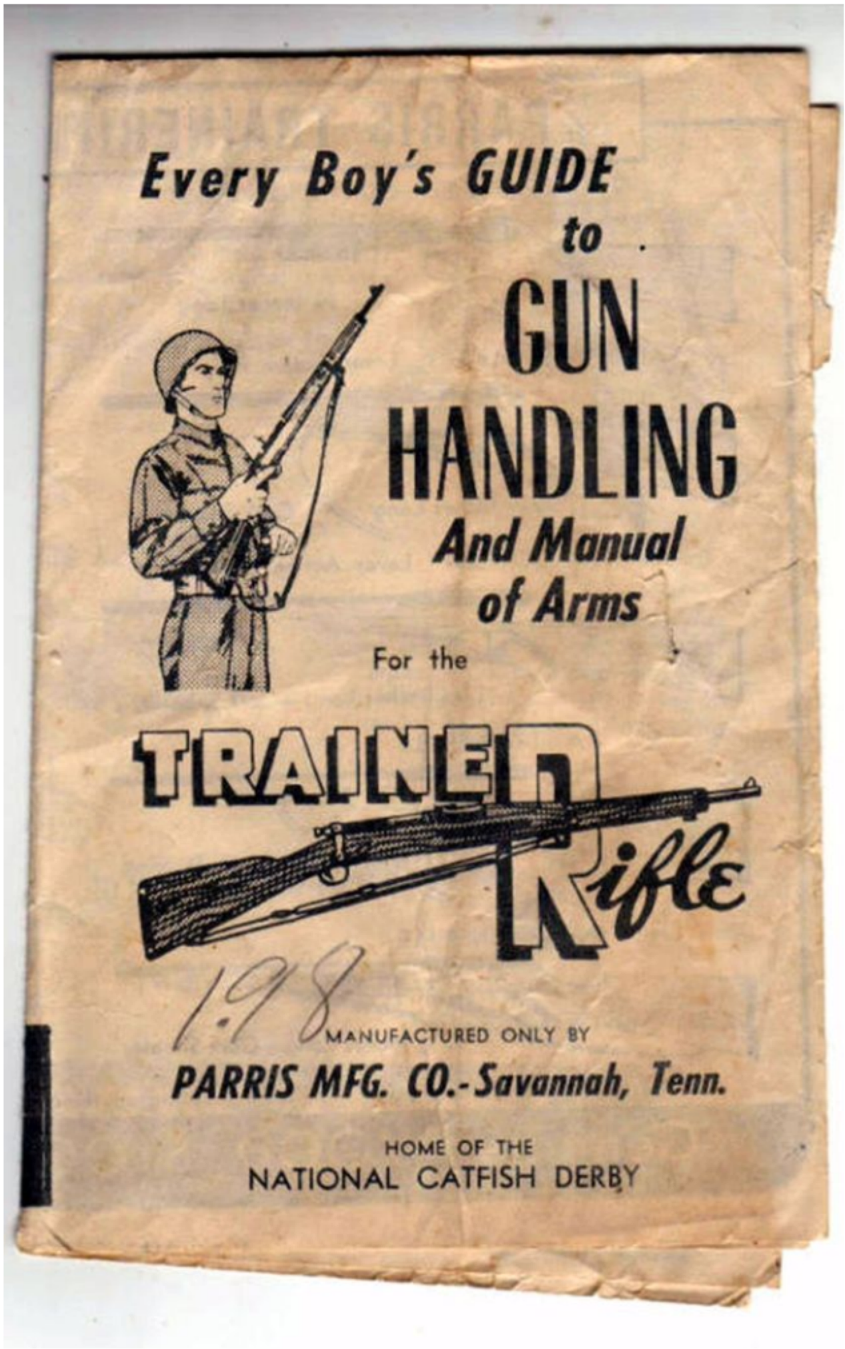
During the 1960's most of the companies that had been producing rubber toys had converted to the use of vinyl materials rather than rubber. This presents a problem as the bayonets are clearly made of rubber and this material is identified in some of the advertisements. There were several companies that had produced rubber toys prior to WWII that stopped producing any toys by the early 1950's.

It appears that the Auburn Rubber Co. which was located in Auburn, Indiana is the only company that continued producing rubber toys into the time period in question. It is known that they produced toy rubber knives but there is no record that they produced any rubber bayonets. Unfortunately, there are no identifying marks on either the Parris or Daisy rubber bayonets. The Auburn Rubber Co. began utilizing vinyl material about 1954 and by 1957 was primarily using this material for their toy production. Although this would have been very late in their production of rubber toys, I believe that there is a high degree of probability that both of these bayonets were produced by the Auburn Rubber Co.

It is hoped that additional information or advertisements will be discovered that will confirm this suspicion.

Parris Mfg. Co. Manual

This guide was located on the internet. Like most of the PMC documents it is undated. The section showing the PMC TraineRifles is interesting. The SMALL- FRY, JUNIOR and M-22 models are shown with no trigger guard and the early simplified action. From this I would conclude that this document was published shortly after the move to Tennessee in1952. By the late 1950's, all of the smaller models had the standard action and the improved trigger assembly.

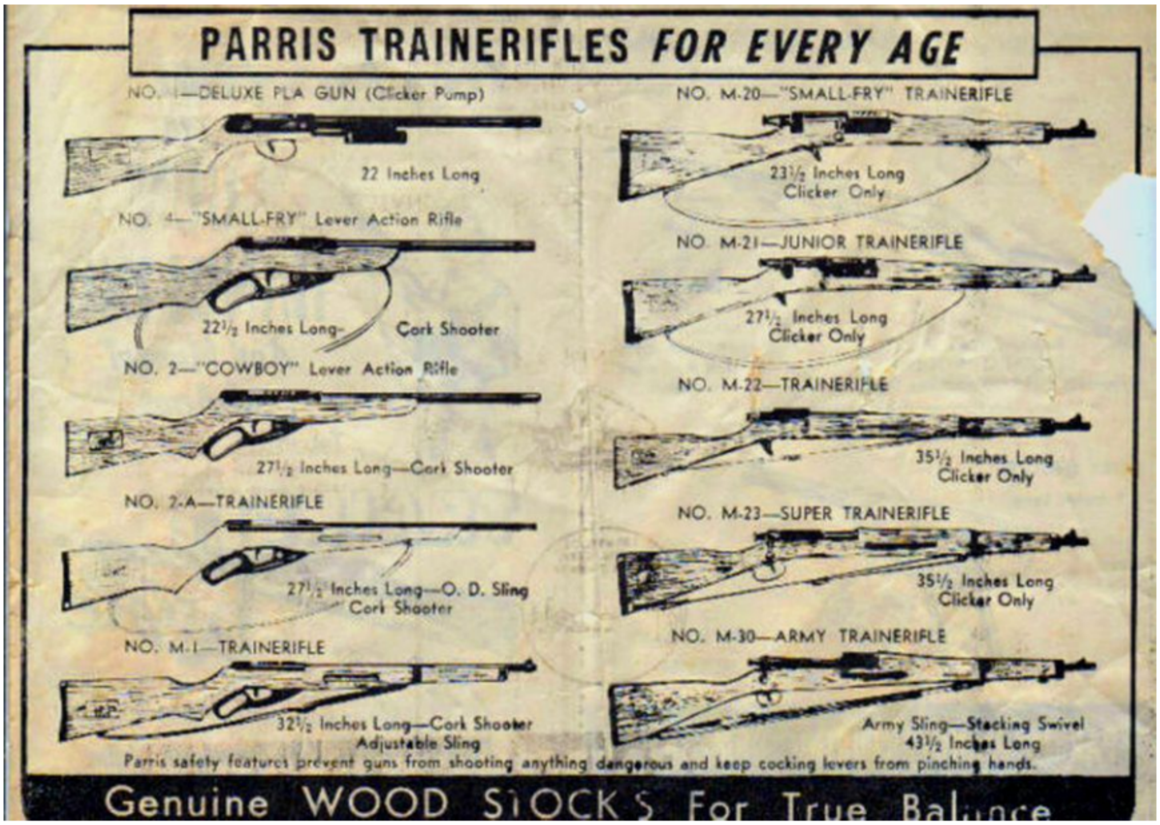


Every Boy's GUIDE
to
GUN
HANDLING
And Manual
of Arms
For the
TRAINER Rifle

1.98

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY
PARRIS MFG. CO.-Savannah, Tenn.

HOME OF THE
NATIONAL CATFISH DERBY



PARRIS TRAINERIFLES *FOR EVERY AGE*

NO. 1—DELUXE PLA GUN (Clicker Pump)

22 Inches Long

NO. 4—"SMALL-FRY" Lever Action Rifle

22½ Inches Long— Cork Shooter

NO. 2—"COWBOY" Lever Action Rifle

27½ Inches Long—Cork Shooter

NO. 2-A—TRAINERIFLE

27½ Inches Long—O. D. Sling
Cork Shooter

NO. M-1—TRAINERIFLE

32½ Inches Long—Cork Shooter
Adjustable Sling

NO. M-20—"SMALL-FRY" TRAINERIFLE

23½ Inches Long
Clicker Only

NO. M-21—JUNIOR TRAINERIFLE

27½ Inches Long
Clicker Only

NO. M-22—TRAINERIFLE

35½ Inches Long
Clicker Only

NO. M-23—SUPER TRAINERIFLE

35½ Inches Long
Clicker Only

NO. M-30—ARMY TRAINERIFLE

Army Sling—Stacking Swivel
43½ Inches Long

Parris safety features prevent guns from shooting anything dangerous and keep cocking levers from pinching hands.

Genuine WOOD STOCKS For True Balance

Kadets of America

The Kadets of America was a paramilitary youth organization that was founded in the spring of 1953 by Cecil Lewis Parris (1898 - 1973). Mr. Parris was the president of the Parris Manufacturing Co. that was located in Savannah, Tennessee. He was the acting National Director of the Kadets of America from 1953-1970. The organization appears to have stopped functioning some time in 1970. This may have been due in part to the negative public reaction to the Vietnam War.

Cecil Parris was an interesting and innovative man. In the early 1930's he was the sales manager for the Kari-Kleen Co. which was located in Sioux City, Iowa. In 1937 he went into partnership with William G. Dunn who ran the Dunn Manufacturing Co. in Clarinda, Iowa. At this time Dunn was producing wind driven electrical generators for the rural farm market. The new partnership was called the Parris-Dunn Corporation with Cecil Parris as President and William Dunn as Vice-president. It is apparent that William Dunn was in charge of product development and production, while Cecil Parris operated the business aspects of the company. With the onset of WWII, the electrical generator business had to be put on hold due to the restriction of critical war materials. In 1942 the Parris-Dunn Corp. got contracts to product a non-firing training rifle for the US Army and Navy. Following the completion of their military contracts, they started producing a line of toy rifles for the civilian market. In 1949 William Dunn decided to retire and he sold the business to Cecil Parris. The new firm was called the Parris Manufacturing Co. In 1952 Parris moved the company from Clarinda, Iowa to Savannah, Tennessee where he continued to produce toy guns. You may review the variety of bolt action drill rifles that Parris-Dunn and the Parris Mfg. Co. produced in another section of this study.

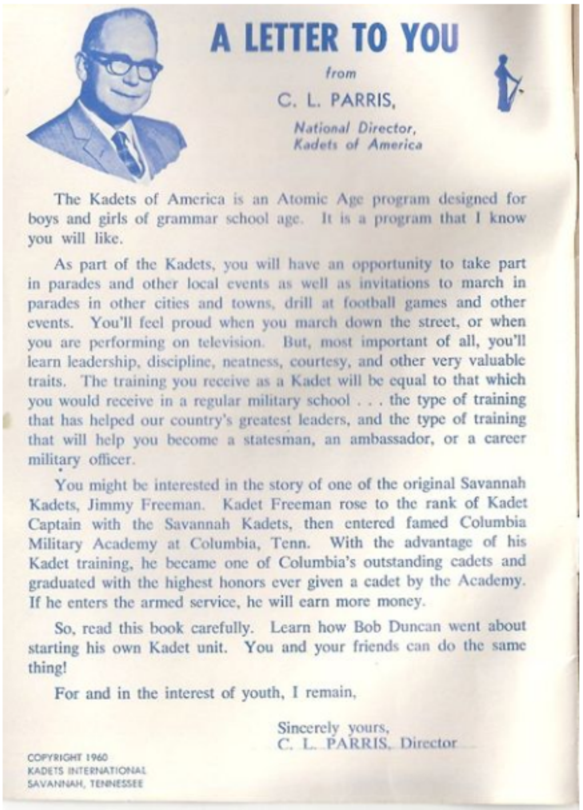
Cecil Parris had always been the driving force behind the toy business and was a creative merchandiser. In the late 1940's he was responsible for getting major retail stores to carry their line of the toy guns. In the spring of 1953 he got the backing of the local Lions Club to form a civic organization of elementary school age boys which he called the Kadets of America. Soon after they were established, girls were encouraged to participate as well. The Kadets were primarily drill teams that were encouraged to participate in parades and civic celebrations.

While this could be viewed as a way to sell more toy rifles, it is apparent that he had a sincere interest in promoting patriotism and civic responsibility in the youth of America. Over the years he was a significant supporter of many important civic projects in the Savannah area and was a highly respected citizen. He was recognized as one of fourteen “Important Park Friends” of the Shiloh National Military Park. This list included prominent political and business leaders from the area. Another significant recognition was bestowed upon him when the Harden County School District named an elementary school in his honor. He was an ardent fisherman and was responsible for getting the term “Catfish Capital of the World” added to the postmark used to cancel mail at the Savannah Post Office. He was also responsible for starting several “world championship” fishing tournaments in the Savannah area.

It appears that the Kadets of America had a bi-monthly newsletter during the early years of their operation. A copy of the cover of the June-July 1958 Kadet News is shown below. Unfortunately the contents of the newsletter have been lost.

It appears that all of the toy rifles that were produced by the Parris Mfg. Co. between 1953 and 1970 carried a decal with the Kadets of America logo. Following 1970 the Kadet marking on the decal was eliminated and in some cases the entire decal was eliminated from their toy guns.

The pages that follow are copies taken from Kadets of America handbooks that were published in 1960. Reading from these original sources will provide an insight into the purposes and approach Cecil Parris used in forming the Kadets of America.



A LETTER TO YOU

from

C. L. PARRIS,

National Director,
Kadets of America

The Kadets of America is an Atomic Age program designed for boys and girls of grammar school age. It is a program that I know you will like.

As part of the Kadets, you will have an opportunity to take part in parades and other local events as well as invitations to march in parades in other cities and towns, drill at football games and other events. You'll feel proud when you march down the street, or when you are performing on television. But, most important of all, you'll learn leadership, discipline, neatness, courtesy, and other very valuable traits. The training you receive as a Kadet will be equal to that which you would receive in a regular military school . . . the type of training that has helped our country's greatest leaders, and the type of training that will help you become a statesman, an ambassador, or a career military officer.

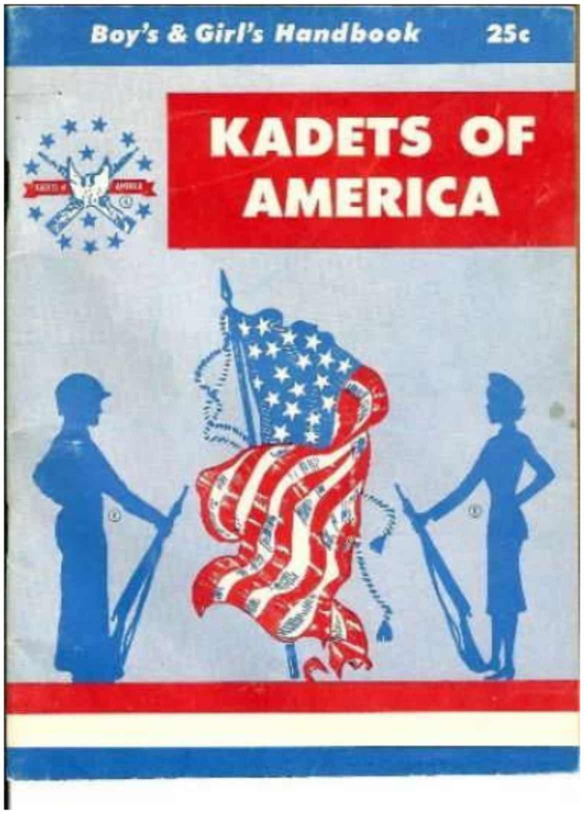
You might be interested in the story of one of the original Savannah Kadets, Jimmy Freeman. Kadet Freeman rose to the rank of Kadet Captain with the Savannah Kadets, then entered famed Columbia Military Academy at Columbia, Tenn. With the advantage of his Kadet training, he became one of Columbia's outstanding cadets and graduated with the highest honors ever given a cadet by the Academy. If he enters the armed service, he will earn more money.

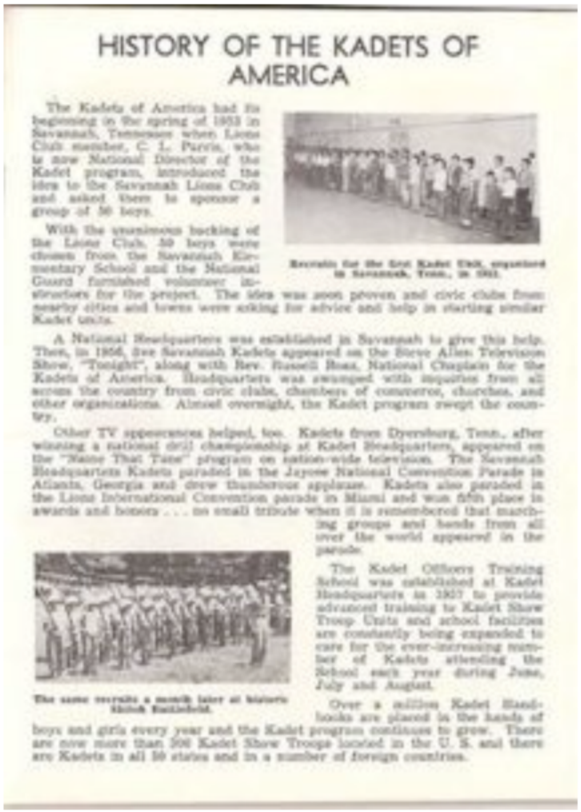
So, read this book carefully. Learn how Bob Duncan went about starting his own Kadet unit. You and your friends can do the same thing!

For and in the interest of youth, I remain,

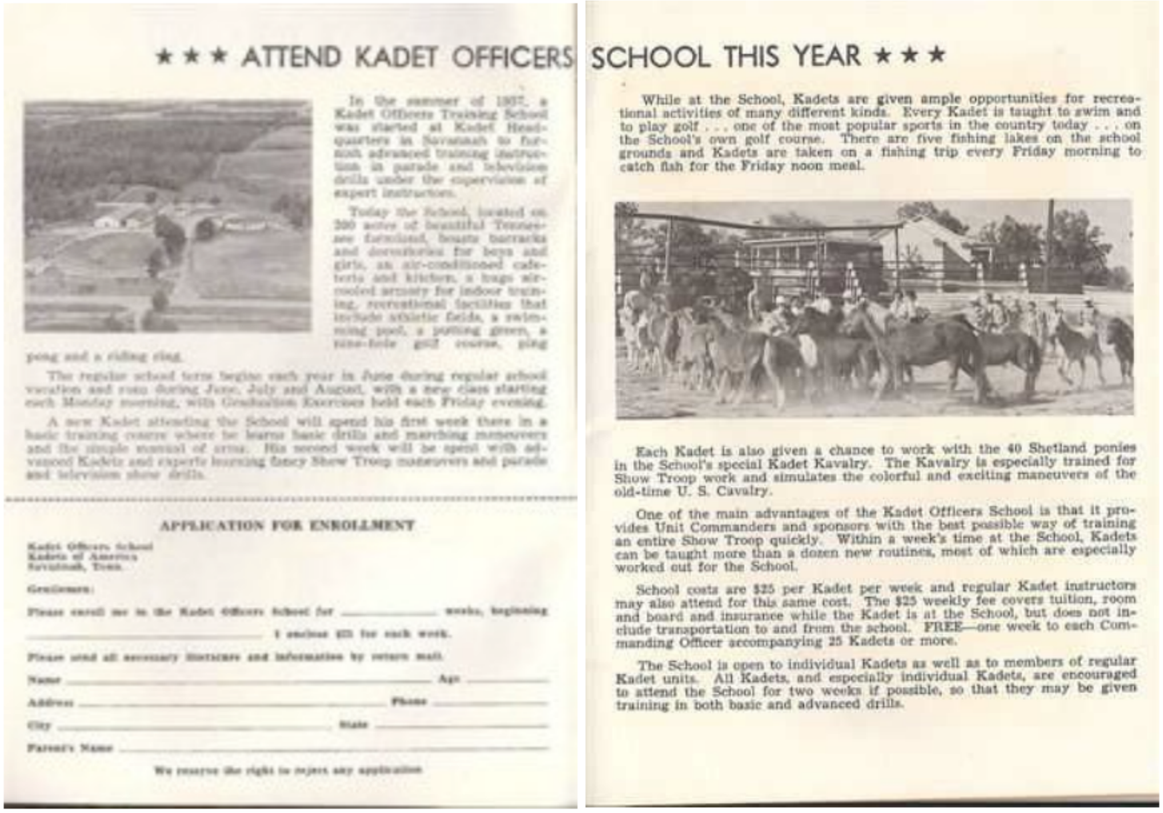
Sincerely yours,
C. L. PARRIS, Director

COPYRIGHT 1960
KADETS INTERNATIONAL
SAVANNAH, TENNESSEE





HISTORY OF THE KADETS OF AMERICA



★ ★ ★ ATTEND KADET OFFICERS SCHOOL THIS YEAR ★ ★ ★

In the summer of 1957, a Kadet Officers Training School was started at Kadet Headquarters in Savannah to furnish advanced training instruction in parade and television drills under the supervision of expert instructors.

Today the School, located on 300 acres of beautiful Tennessee farmland, boasts barracks and dormitories for boys and girls, an air-conditioned cafeteria and kitchen, a huge air-cooled armory for indoor training, recreational facilities that include athletic fields, a swimming pool, a putting green, a nine-hole golf course, ping pong and a riding ring.

The regular school term begins each year in June during regular school vacation and runs during June, July and August, with a new class starting each Monday morning, with Graduation Exercises held each Friday evening.

A new Kadet attending the School will spend his first week there in a basic training course where he learns basic drills and marching maneuvers and the simple manual of arms. His second week will be spent with advanced Kadets and experts learning fancy Show Troop maneuvers and parade and television show drills.

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT

Kadet Officers School
Kadets of America
Savannah, Tenn.

Gentlemen:

Please enroll me in the Kadet Officers School for ______ weeks, beginning ______. I enclose $25 for each week.

Please send all necessary literature and information by return mail.

Name ______ Age ______
Address ______ Phone ______
City ______ State ______
Parent's Name ______

We reserve the right to reject any application.

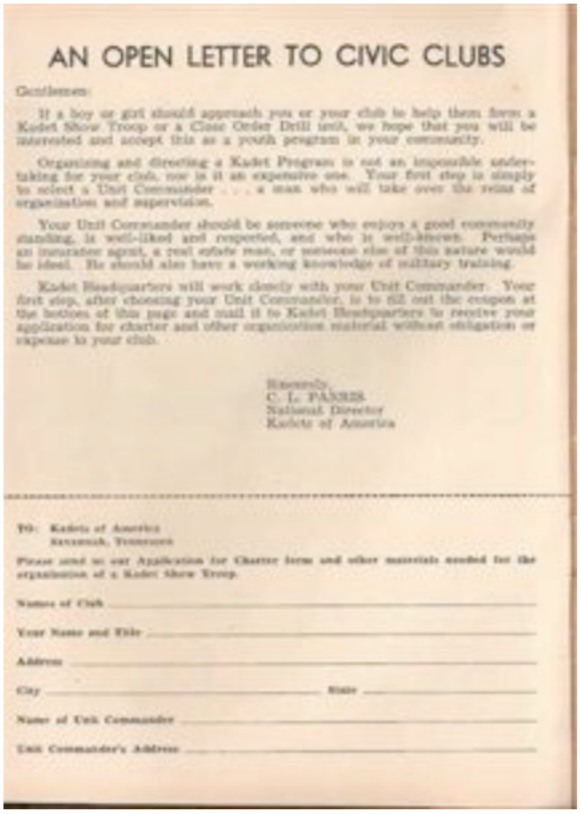
While at the School, Kadets are given ample opportunities for recreational activities of many different kinds. Every Kadet is taught to swim and to play golf . . . one of the most popular sports in the country today . . . on the School's own golf course. There are five fishing lakes on the school grounds and Kadets are taken on a fishing trip every Friday morning to catch fish for the Friday noon meal.

Each Kadet is also given a chance to work with the 40 Shetland ponies in the School's special Kadet Kavalry. The Kavalry is especially trained for Show Troop work and simulates the colorful and exciting maneuvers of the old-time U. S. Cavalry.

One of the main advantages of the Kadet Officers School is that it provides Unit Commanders and sponsors with the best possible way of training an entire Show Troop quickly. Within a week's time at the School, Kadets can be taught more than a dozen new routines, most of which are especially worked out for the School.

School costs are $25 per Kadet per week and regular Kadet instructors may also attend for this same cost. The $25 weekly fee covers tuition, room and board and insurance while the Kadet is at the School, but does not include transportation to and from the school. FREE—one week to each Commanding Officer accompanying 25 Kadets or more.

The School is open to individual Kadets as well as to members of regular Kadet units. All Kadets, and especially individual Kadets, are encouraged to attend the School for two weeks if possible, so that they may be given training in both basic and advanced drills.



AN OPEN LETTER TO CIVIC CLUBS

Gentlemen:

If a boy or girl should approach you or your club to help them form a Kadet Show Troop or a Close Order Drill unit, we hope that you will be interested and accept this as a youth program in your community.

Organizing and directing a Kadet Program is not an impossible undertaking for your club, nor is it an expensive one. Your first step is simply to select a Unit Commander . . . a man who will take over the reins of organization and supervision.

Your Unit Commander should be someone who enjoys a good community standing, is well-liked and respected, and who is well-known. Perhaps an insurance agent, a real estate man, or someone else of this nature would be ideal. He should also have a working knowledge of military training.

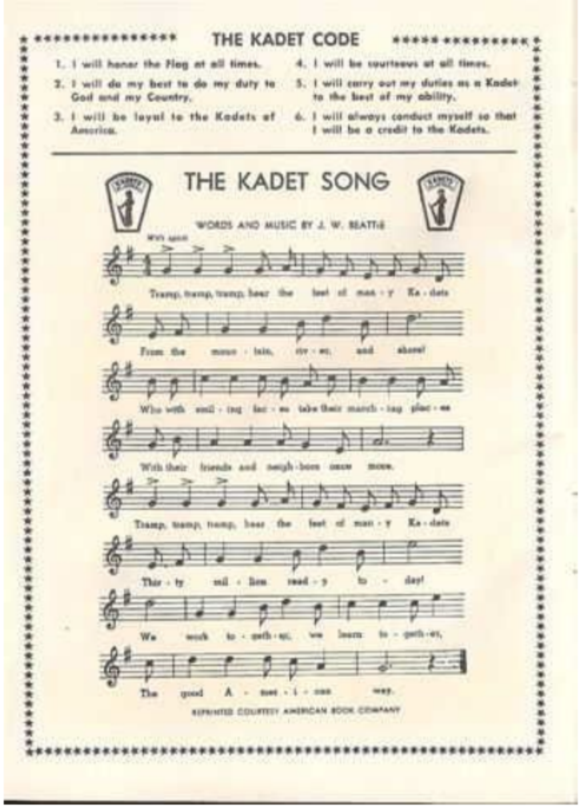
Kadet Headquarters will work closely with your Unit Commander. Your first step, after choosing your Unit Commander, is to fill out the coupon at the bottom of this page and mail it to Kadet Headquarters to receive your application for charter and other organization material without obligation or expense to your club.

Sincerely,
C. L. PARRIS
National Director
Kadets of America

TO: Kadets of America
Savannah, Tennessee

Please send us our Application for Charter form and other materials needed for the organization of a Kadet Show Troop.

Name of Club ______
Your Name and Title ______
Address ______
City ______ State ______
Name of Unit Commander ______
Unit Commander's Address ______



THE KADET CODE

1. I will honor the Flag at all times.
2. I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country.
3. I will be loyal to the Kadets of America.
4. I will be courteous at all times.
5. I will carry out my duties as a Kadet to the best of my ability.
6. I will always conduct myself so that I will be a credit to the Kadets.

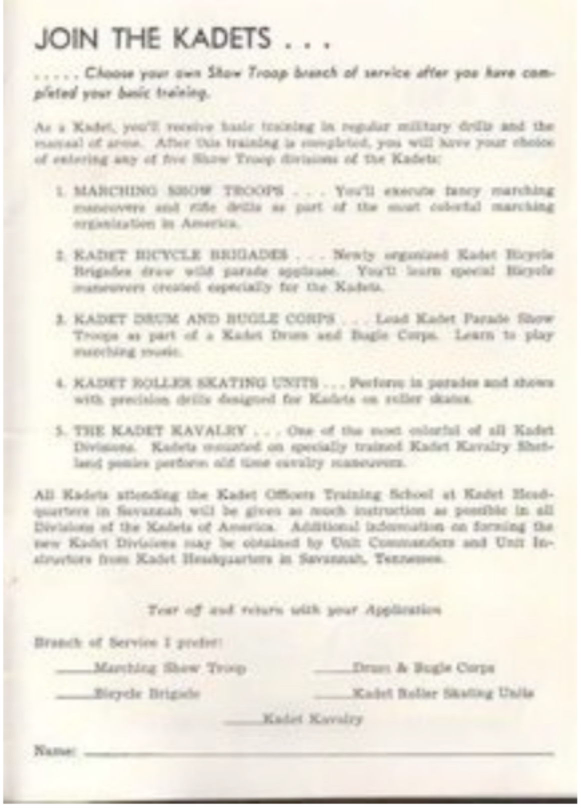
THE KADET SONG

WORDS AND MUSIC BY J. W. BEATTIE

With spirit

Tramp, tramp, tramp, hear the feet of man-y Ka-dets
From the moun-tain, riv-er, and shore!
Who with smil-ing fac-es take their march-ing plac-es
With their friends and neigh-bors once more.
Tramp, tramp, tramp, hear the feet of man-y Ka-dets
Thir-ty mil-lion read-y to-day!
We work to-geth-er, we learn to-geth-er,
The good A-mer-i-can way.

REPRINTED COURTESY AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY



JOIN THE KADETS . . .

. . . . . Choose your own Show Troop branch of service after you have completed your basic training.

As a Kadet, you'll receive basic training in regular military drills and the manual of arms. After this training is completed, you will have your choice of entering any of five Show Troop divisions of the Kadets:

1. MARCHING SHOW TROOPS . . . You'll execute fancy marching maneuvers and rifle drills as part of the most colorful marching organization in America.
2. KADET BICYCLE BRIGADES . . . Newly organized Kadet Bicycle Brigades draw wild parade applause. You'll learn special Bicycle maneuvers created especially for the Kadets.
3. KADET DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS . . . Lead Kadet Parade Show Troops as part of a Kadet Drum and Bugle Corps. Learn to play marching music.
4. KADET ROLLER SKATING UNITS . . . Perform in parades and shows with precision drills designed for Kadets on roller skates.
5. THE KADET KAVALRY . . . One of the most colorful of all Kadet Divisions. Kadets mounted on specially trained Kadet Kavalry Shetland ponies perform old time cavalry maneuvers.

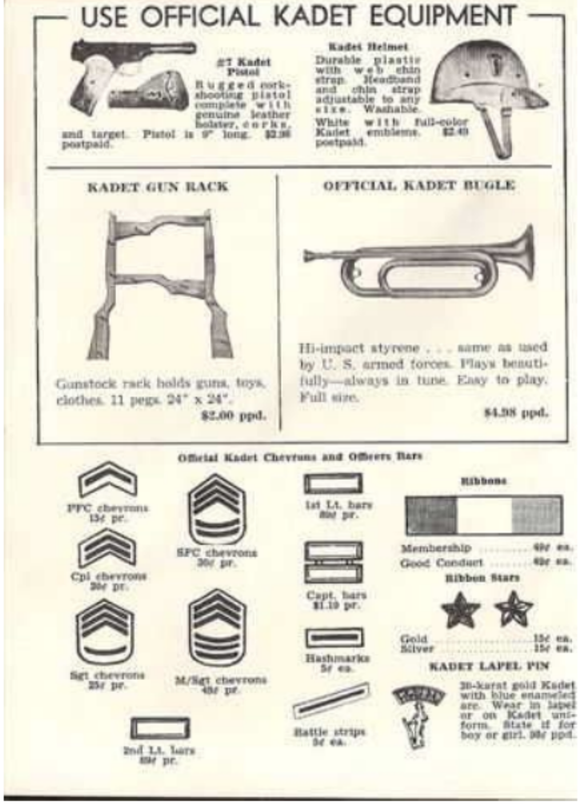
All Kadets attending the Kadet Officers Training School at Kadet Headquarters in Savannah will be given as much instruction as possible in all Divisions of the Kadets of America. Additional information on forming the new Kadet Divisions may be obtained by Unit Commanders and Unit Instructors from Kadet Headquarters in Savannah, Tennessee.

Tear off and return with your Application

Branch of Service I prefer:

_____Marching Show Troop
_____Drum & Bugle Corps
_____Bicycle Brigade
_____Kadet Roller Skating Units
_____Kadet Kavalry

Name: ____



USE OFFICIAL KADET EQUIPMENT

#7 Kadet Pistol
Rugged cork-shooting pistol complete with genuine leather holster, corks, and target. Pistol is 9" long. $2.98 postpaid.

Kadet Helmet
Durable plastic with web chin strap. Headband and chin strap adjustable to any size. Washable. White with full-color Kadet emblems. $2.49 postpaid.

KADET GUN RACK
Gunstock rack holds guns, toys, clothes. 11 pegs. 24" x 24".
$2.00 ppd.

OFFICIAL KADET BUGLE
Hi-impact styrene . . . same as used by U. S. armed forces. Plays beautifully—always in tune. Easy to play. Full size.
$4.98 ppd.

Official Kadet Chevrons and Officers Bars

PFC chevrons 15¢ pr.
Cpl chevrons 20¢ pr.
Sgt chevrons 25¢ pr.
SFC chevrons 30¢ pr.
M/Sgt chevrons 49¢ pr.
2nd Lt. bars 89¢ pr.
1st Lt. bars 89¢ pr.
Capt. bars $1.19 pr.
Hashmarks 5¢ ea.
Battle strips 5¢ ea.

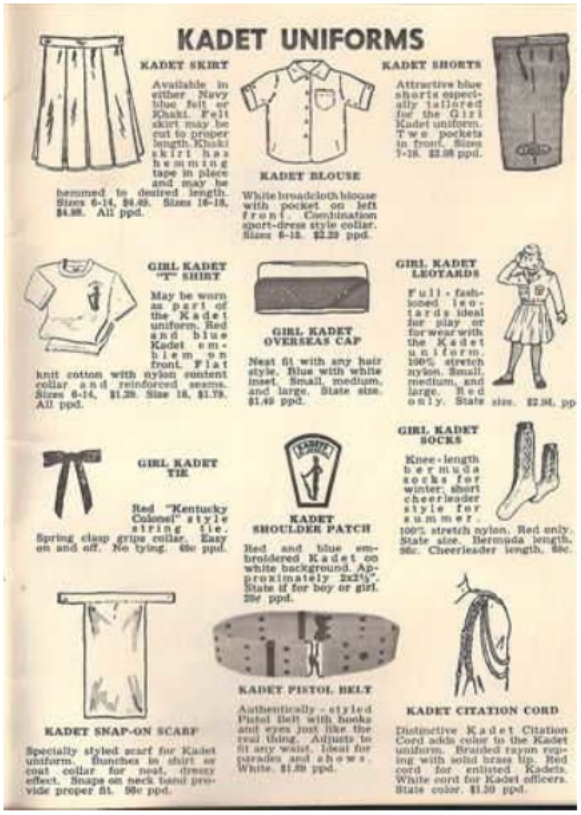
Ribbons

Membership	49¢ ea.
Good Conduct	49¢ ea.

Ribbon Stars

Gold	15¢ ea.
Silver	15¢ ea.

KADET LAPEL PIN
10-karat gold Kadet with blue enameled arc. Wear in lapel or on Kadet uniform. State if for boy or girl. 98¢ ppd.



KADET UNIFORMS

KADET SKIRT
Available in either Navy blue felt or Khaki. Felt skirt may be cut to proper length. Khaki skirt has hemming tape in place and may be hemmed to desired length. Sizes 6-14, $4.49. Sizes 16-18, $4.98. All ppd.

KADET BLOUSE
White broadcloth blouse with pocket on left front. Combination sport-dress style collar. Sizes 6-18. $2.29 ppd.

KADET SHORTS
Attractive blue shorts especially tailored for the Girl Kadet uniform. Two pockets in front. Sizes 7-18. $2.98 ppd.

GIRL KADET "T" SHIRT
May be worn as part of the Kadet uniform. Red and blue Kadet emblem on front. Flat knit cotton with nylon content collar and reinforced seams. Sizes 6-14, $1.29. Size 16, $1.79. All ppd.

GIRL KADET OVERSEAS CAP
Neat fit with any hair style. Blue with white inset. Small, medium, and large. State size. $1.49 ppd.

GIRL KADET LEOTARDS
Full-fashioned leotards ideal for play or for wear with the Kadet uniform. 100% stretch nylon. Small, medium, and large. Red only. State size. $2.98. pp

GIRL KADET TIE
Red "Kentucky Colonel" style string tie. Spring clasp grips collar. Easy on and off. No tying. 49c ppd.

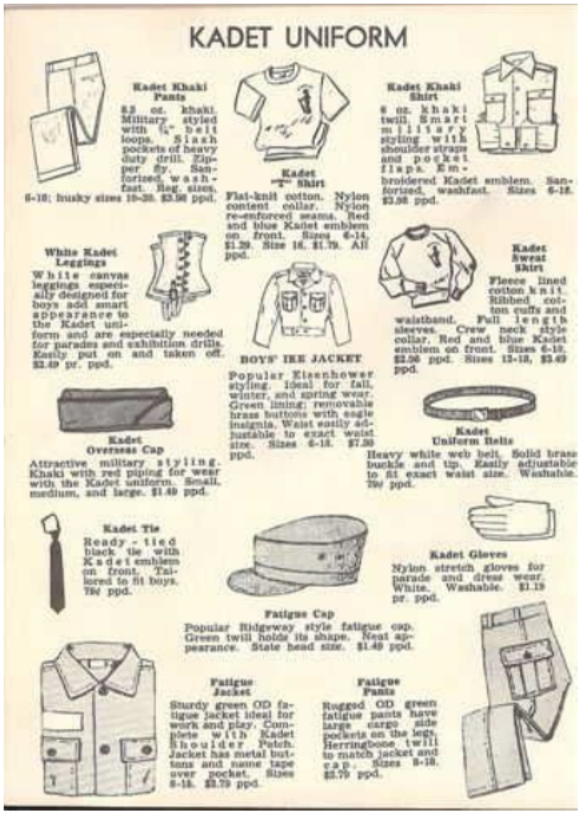
KADET SHOULDER PATCH
Red and blue embroidered Kadet on white background. Approximately 2x2½". State if for boy or girl. 29¢ ppd.

GIRL KADET SOCKS
Knee-length bermuda socks for winter; short cheerleader style for summer. 100% stretch nylon. Red only. State size. Bermuda length, 98c. Cheerleader length, 69c.

KADET SNAP-ON SCARF
Specially styled scarf for Kadet uniform. Bunches in shirt or coat collar for neat, dressy effect. Snaps on neck band provide proper fit. 98c ppd.

KADET PISTOL BELT
Authentically-styled Pistol Belt with hooks and eyes just like the real thing. Adjusts to fit any waist. Ideal for parades and shows. White. $1.89 ppd.

KADET CITATION CORD
Distinctive Kadet Citation Cord adds color to the Kadet uniform. Braided rayon roping with solid brass tip. Red cord for enlisted Kadets. White cord for Kadet officers. State color. $1.50 ppd.



KADET UNIFORM

Kadet Khaki Pants
8.2 oz. khaki. Military styled with ¾" belt loops. Slash pockets of heavy duty drill. Zipper fly. Sanforized, washfast. Reg. sizes 6-18; husky sizes 10-20. $3.98 ppd.

Kadet "T" Shirt
Flat-knit cotton. Nylon content collar. Nylon re-enforced seams. Red and blue Kadet emblem on front. Sizes 6-14, $1.29. Size 16, $1.79. All ppd.

Kadet Khaki Shirt
8 oz. khaki twill. Smart military styling with shoulder straps and pocket flaps. Embroidered Kadet emblem. Sanforized, washfast. Sizes 6-18. $3.98 ppd.

White Kadet Leggings
White canvas leggings especially designed for boys add smart appearance to the Kadet uniform and are especially needed for parades and exhibition drills. Easily put on and taken off. $2.49 pr. ppd.

BOYS' IKE JACKET
Popular Eisenhower styling. Ideal for fall, winter, and spring wear. Green lining; removable brass buttons with eagle insignia. Waist easily adjustable to exact waist size. Sizes 6-18. $7.98 ppd.

Kadet Sweat Shirt
Fleece lined cotton knit. Ribbed cotton cuffs and waistband. Full length sleeves. Crew neck style collar. Red and blue Kadet emblem on front. Sizes 6-10, $2.98 ppd. Sizes 12-18, $3.49 ppd.

Kadet Overseas Cap
Attractive military styling. Khaki with red piping for wear with the Kadet uniform. Small, medium, and large. $1.49 ppd.

Kadet Uniform Belts
Heavy white web belt. Solid brass buckle and tip. Easily adjustable to fit exact waist size. Washable. 79¢ ppd.

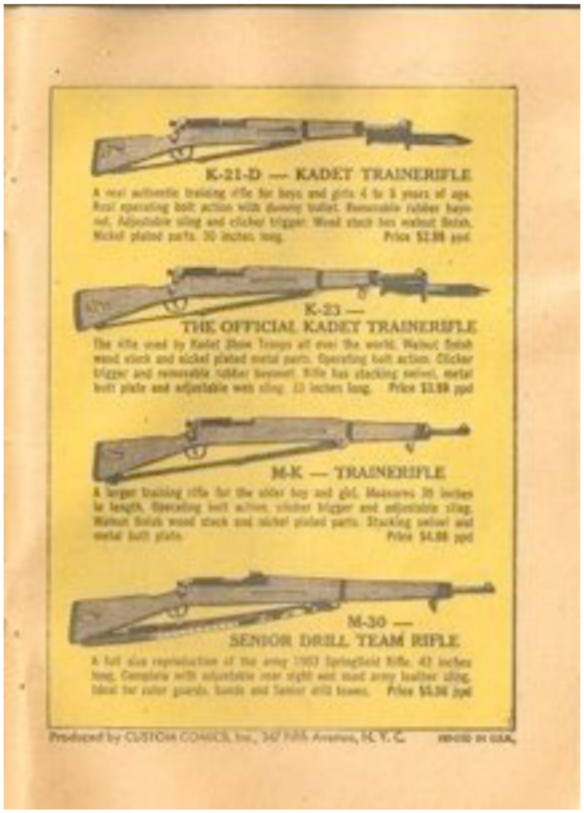
Kadet Tie
Ready-tied black tie with Kadet emblem on front. Tailored to fit boys. 79¢ ppd.

Kadet Gloves
Nylon stretch gloves for parade and dress wear. White. Washable. $1.19 pr. ppd.

Fatigue Cap
Popular Ridgeway style fatigue cap. Green twill holds its shape. Neat appearance. State head size. $1.49 ppd.

Fatigue Jacket
Sturdy green OD fatigue jacket ideal for work and play. Complete with Kadet Shoulder Patch. Jacket has metal buttons and name tape over pocket. Sizes 8-18. $3.79 ppd.

Fatigue Pants
Rugged OD green fatigue pants have large cargo side pockets on the legs. Herringbone twill to match jacket and cap. Sizes 8-18. $2.79 ppd.



K-21-D — KADET TRAINERIFLE

A real authentic training rifle for boys and girls 4 to 8 years of age. Real operating bolt action with dummy bullet. Removable rubber bayonet. Adjustable sling and clicker trigger. Wood stock has walnut finish. Nickel plated parts. 30 inches long. Price $2.98 ppd

K-23 —
THE OFFICIAL KADET TRAINERIFLE

The rifle used by Kadet Show Troops all over the world. Walnut finish wood stock and nickel plated metal parts. Operating bolt action. Clicker trigger and removable rubber bayonet. Rifle has stacking swivel, metal butt plate and adjustable web sling. 33 inches long. Price $3.98 ppd

M-K — TRAINERIFLE

A larger training rifle for the older boy and girl. Measures 38 inches in length. Operating bolt action, clicker trigger and adjustable sling. Walnut finish wood stock and nickel plated parts. Stacking swivel and metal butt plate. Price $4.98 ppd

M-30 —
SENIOR DRILL TEAM RIFLE

A full size reproduction of the army 1903 Springfield Rifle. 42 inches long. Complete with adjustable rear sight and steel army leather sling. Ideal for color guards, bands and Senior drill teams. Price $5.98 ppd

Produced by CUSTOM COMICS, Inc., 347 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

I located the cover sheet and back page of "The Kadet News" which was a bi-monthly newsletter of the Kadets of America. It is dated June, July 1958 and has a picture of founder Cecil Parris on the cover. The Kadets of America stopped functioning in 1970. They very likely went out of existence due to the antiwar sentiment relating to the Vietnam War.

The

Kadet

JUNE, JULY, 1958

News

C. L. PARRIS, FOUNDER OF THE KADETS
See "History of the Kadets," page 8

SPECIAL KADET SCHOOL ISSUE

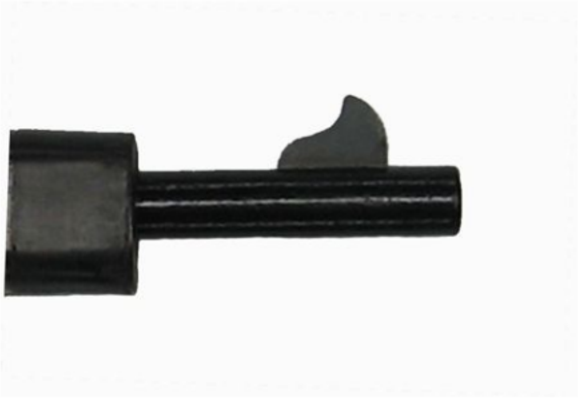
- Costs
- Curriculum
- Uniforms, Equipment
- Girl Kadets
- History of the Kadets
- Kadet Rack Sales Campaign

Dating Parris-Dunn & Parris Mfg. Co. Toy Training Rifles

The Kadets of America was a paramilitary youth organization that was founded in the spring of 1953 by Cecil Lewis Parris (1898 - 1973). Mr. Parris was the president of the Parris Manufacturing Co. that was located in Savanna. The production and design records from these companies no longer exist. While it is impossible to accurately date the start of the various models, it is possible to establish with some degree of accuracy the sequence of production and design change. The following is my best guess at establishing a time line for the manufacture of these toy training rifles. This is based upon many years of examining various models rather than any verified data.

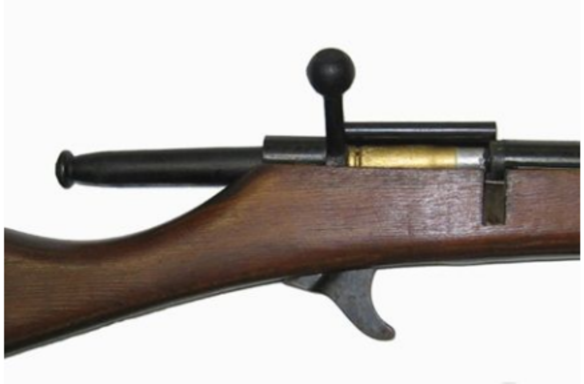
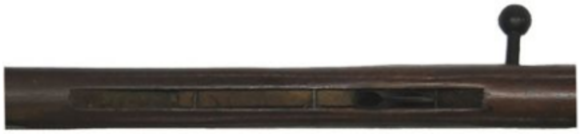
Following the completion of their military contracts in 1943 the Parris-Dunn Corp. started making various toy rifles. I am only going to consider the various bolt action models that were generally patterned after the 1903 Springfield. These toy rifles were sold under the name of “TraineRifle”. It appears that most of the toy rifles made by Parris-Dunn in Clarinda, Iowa carried a small rectangular decal in the right side of the stock. Most of the full size training rifles that were made for civilian applications did not have this decal. However, there are full size specimens that appear identical to the Navy model, with the exception of not having a metal front barrel band with a bayonet lug, that carry a decal. It is presumed that they were made up in the late 1940's from surplus parts left over from their Navy contract. They were undoubtedly sold on the toy market. The full size models with a decal are rare. Unfortunately people deliberately removed the decals from these full size toy training rifles to make them look more like a military model or removed them in a refinishing process.

It is easy to identify any of the bolt action training rifles or toy rifles that were produced by Parris-Dunn even if they have no decal. All of the rifles produced by Parris-Dunn have a wooden barrel and a front sight that is shaped like the 03 Springfield sight. If your specimen has this type of barrel and front sight it was made by Parris-Dunn between 1943 and 1949. If it is full size, has a wooden clicker trigger, no decal and no metal front barrel band it was made for the toy market.

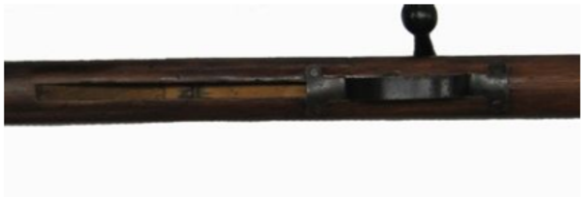
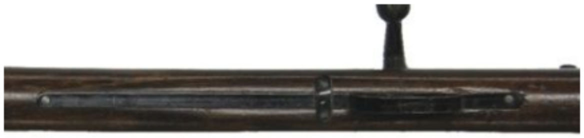


The first Parris-Dunn bolt action toy rifles were produced between 1944 and 1949. They produced two models of different lengths. The M-20 was 27" long and the M - 22 was 35" long. They had a functional bolt that had a spring loaded wooden cartridge that protruded from the front of the bolt face when the bolt was opened. The receiver was a simple metal tube and the bolt handle was made of wood. It had what was called a clicker trigger. The trigger was made from folded strip of metal. When the trigger was pulled it bent a small strip of hard wood. When the trigger over rode the wooden strip it allowed the wood strip to snap back against a stop and made a loud click. The unusual feature of this model was that it had no trigger guard.

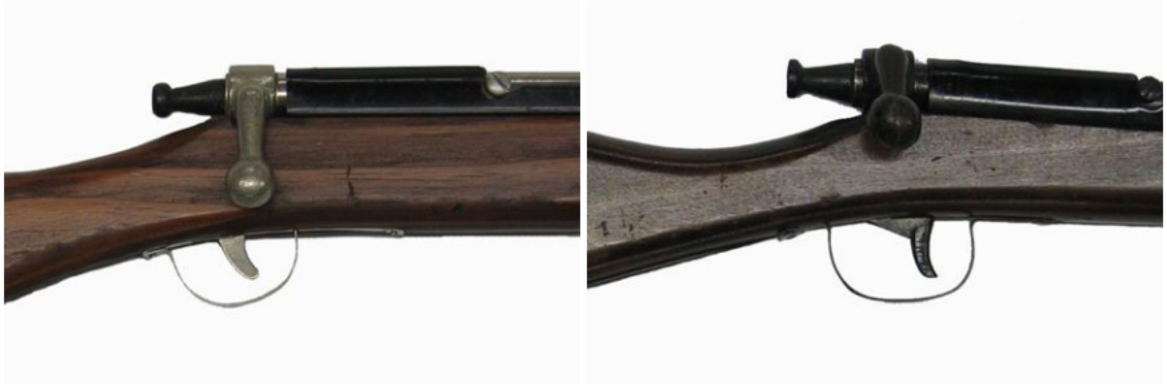
A full length model of this type was produced using the clicker trigger but it had the conventional Parris-Dunn military action. Because of the use of the clicker trigger it probably was sold on the toy market.

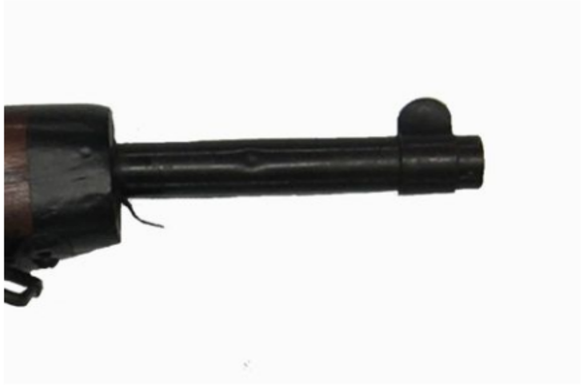
In 1949 William Dunn retired and sold the business to Cecil Parris. From late 1949 through 1951 Cecil Parris continued making toy rifles in the Clarinda, Iowa plant. The decal used during this period identified the Parris Mfg. Co. but had the Clarinda, Iowa address. At this time they started using the conventional Parris-Dunn type action. The trigger was changed and a trigger guard started to be used. The earliest trigger guard was made from a thin strip of metal and had a very short rear tang which left most of the wooden strip exposed. It later was replaced with a long tang which covered the entire slot.

In 1952 he moved the company and the production of toys to Savannah, Tennessee. In 1953 he started the Kadets of America organization which continued until 1970. He developed a full line of toy guns and accessories for the young people in the organization. All of the toy rifles carried a decal on the right side of the stock that identified the Parris Mfg. Co. and the Savannah, Tennessee address. It is assumed that it was at this time that he redesigned the bolt action and trigger assembly to reduce the cost of production of the new Kadet Rifles. The new action was similar to the Parris-Dunn military action but was made using lighter material. There are specimens with the Parris Mfg. Co. and the Tennessee address that use the wooden strip clicker trigger. It is probable that these were produced soon after the move to Tennessee. By the middle 1950's all of the toys used a sheet metal trigger assembly that also made a clicking sound. The trigger shape was slightly changed and had a bend on the front edge that made it easier to pull. It should be noted that during the transition there were a few M-20 and M-22 toy rifles produced in Tennessee that had the wooden clicker trigger and no trigger guard. These were probably made between 1952 and 1954. These rifles had a sheet metal barrel, the rounded front sight and the PMC decal with the Savannah, Tennessee address.



At this time the barrel and front sight design also changed. The barrel was made from a sheet metal tube and the front sight was a strip of metal that was bent around the barrel. The front sight had a rounded sight blade which was cheaper to produce and made the gun safer to handle during drill. It should be noted that at this time a strip of metal was added to the bottom of the barrel which was used as a bayonet lug. The bayonet lug only appears on rifles produced from 1953-1970.



There were different rear sights used on the different models. These ranged from a surplus military carbine sight to a simple bent up tab on the front of the receiver. After 1970 some models had no rear sight.

It appears that only the smallest of the bolt action toy training rifles had a wooden cartridge on the face of the bolt. These models would have been produced starting about 1950.

From 1953 through 1970 all of the toy models were available with wooden stocks that were stained dark or painted white. It appears that the majority were stained dark. All of the toy rifles that were produced for the Kadets of America had nickel-plated metal parts. Those that were produced for other commercial sales had the metal parts painted black. Both of these types carried the same decal on the stock. There are examples of the smaller toy rifles that do not have a decal on the stock. All of these rifles were produced in the Tennessee plant.

The use of a metal butt plate varied greatly. All of the toy models have specimens with and without metal butt plates. Some of the butt plates have markings on them and some are unmarked. It is more likely that the larger models will have a metal butt plate of some type. Until recent times the use of a butt plate cannot be associated in any way with the age or other features. The more recent M-30 drill rifles all have a metal or rubber butt plates.

All of the toy rifles came with a web sling. The smaller sizes used a simple strip of webbing and a buckle to make it adjustable. The full size models appear to have used surplus M1 Garand web slings.

It appears that the rifles that were produced through the 1950's had the barrel bands of black paint. Following this time they used black electricians tape for barrel bands and around the butt plate area.

By the 1980's production of the larger toy training rifles ended and a simplified drill rifle went into production. This is also called the M-30 but is significantly different from the earlier M-30 toy model. It has the same receiver and trigger assembly but has no bayonet lug or barrel bands. Although it is often offered for sale on toy sites, the current M-30 model should not be considered a toy as it is used primarily for drill and parade use. Some of the smaller toy bolt action models have remained in production and are sold in many sporting goods outlets, toy stores and tourist shops. It appears that they are currently being produced in China.

I am never surprised when I find a Parris Mfg. Co. TraineRifle that does not conform exactly to the size or details of a specific model. It seems that they were very flexible in conforming to a specific model specification. The larger toy models seem to be more similar.

Due to the lack of information relating to toy rifles there are many attempts to sell the larger toy guns produced by the Parris Mfg. Co. as WWII military training rifles. The Parris Mfg. Co. was formed several years after WWII and never had any military contracts. The Parris-Dunn military contract rifles are well identified on the butt plate and have other unique features that separate them from the toy market.

The following is an attempt to identify the characteristics and production dates of the bolt action toy rifles. Please recognize that the dates shown are an approximation and are not based on verified data.

Parris-Dunn bolt action toy rifles

1. All have a wooden barrel and a front sight that is patterned after the military front sight.
2. There should be a TraineRifle decal on the right side of the stock that identifies Parris Dunn and shows Clarinda Iowa as the address.
3. Any model that has no trigger guard was made prior to 1949.
4. All models with no trigger guard should have used the wooden strip clicker trigger mechanism.
5. A rare toy used most of the military parts but has no metal front barrel band but has a decal.

These toys would have been produced between 1944-1949.

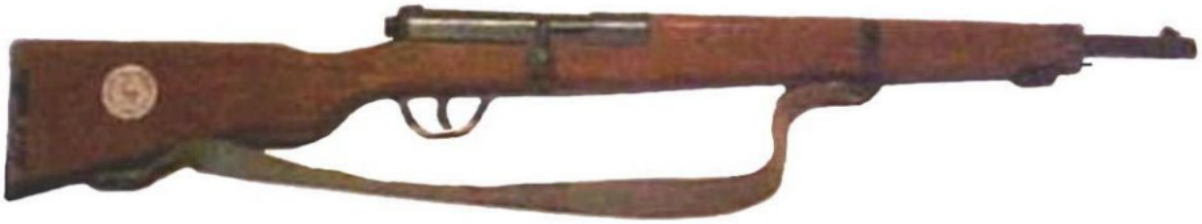
Parris Mfg. Co. bolt action toy rifles

1. Most but not all PMC toy rifles carried a TraineRifle decal on the right side of the stock. Specimens made between 1949 and 1951 will show the Clarinda, Iowa address. Some specimens will not have a trigger guard.
2. Between 1949 and 1951 most of the rifles used the conventional Parris-Dunn bolt action, had a sheet metal trigger guard and a wooden strip clicker trigger mechanism.
3. Following 1952 the decal would have shown the Savannah, Tennessee address.
4. Specimens made between 1953 and 1955 may have a wooden strip clicker trigger mechanism. After 1955 they will have a sheet metal trigger mechanism.
5. In 1953 the bolt action was modified using lighter material, the barrel made from a steel tube and the front sight modified to have a smooth radius.
6. Rifles produced for the Kadets of America had nickel-plated metal parts from 1953-1970. All

Kadet models were available with either stained wood or white colored stocks.

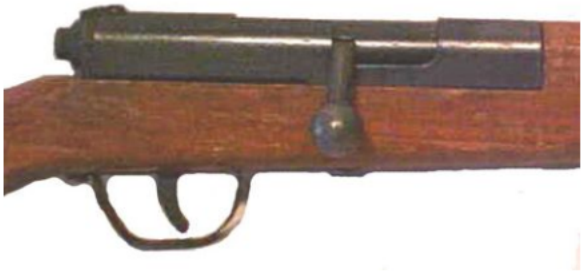
7. Following 1970 PMC used several different decals and started selling their product through other retail outlets and places like Disneyland.
8. The larger models of rifles were eliminated and a simplified version of the M-30 model was introduced sometime between 1970 and 1980. This model is still in production in various forms for drill teams and should not be considered as a toy.

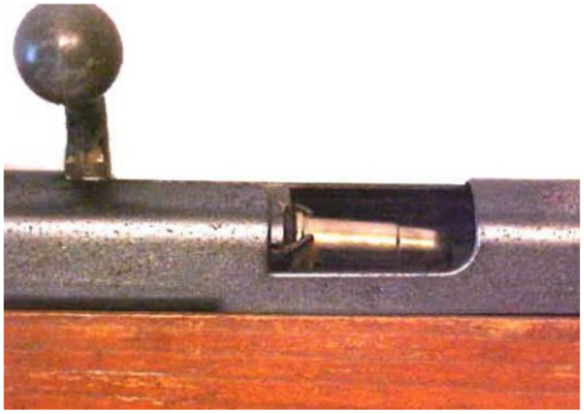
Daisy Sport Trainer

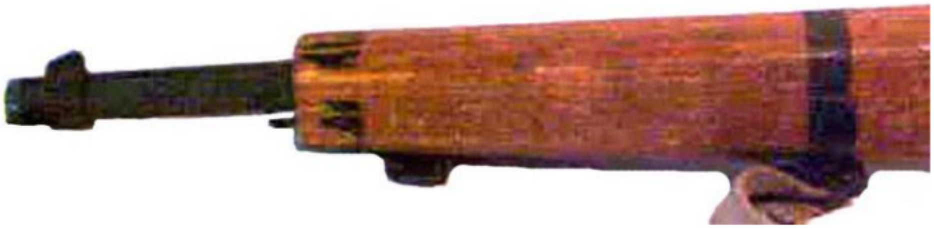


The Daisy Museum in Rogers, Arkansas was helpful in providing information on the Sport Trainer. Daisy introduced a line of sport trainers in April 1966 and produced them through 1969. There were five lever action models (626, 630, 631, 632 and 633). The 634 was a bolt action model and the largest of the line at 33 1/2". This line was designed to compete for a market share with the Parris Mfg. Co. The Model 634 retailed at about $4.00.

The design of the Model 634 is similar in many ways to the Parris Mfg. Co. TraineRifle models, although most of the parts are a slightly different shape. The short sheet metal barrel and the bayonet lug are nearly identical in shape and location to the Parris models. There is a short cartridge that retracts into the bolt face when the bolt is closed that is similar in principle to the Parris models. The model 634 uses two metal clips on the bolt face to retain the cartridge instead of a screw through the side of the bolt on the Parris models. It is uncertain which company first started using the retracting cartridge. The early Parris Mfg. Co. TraineRifles did not have this feature and it is uncertain when this practice started, as the early production information has been lost. The Parris Mfg. Co. was producing their TraineRifle models in the early 1950's, which is well before the start of the Daisy production.





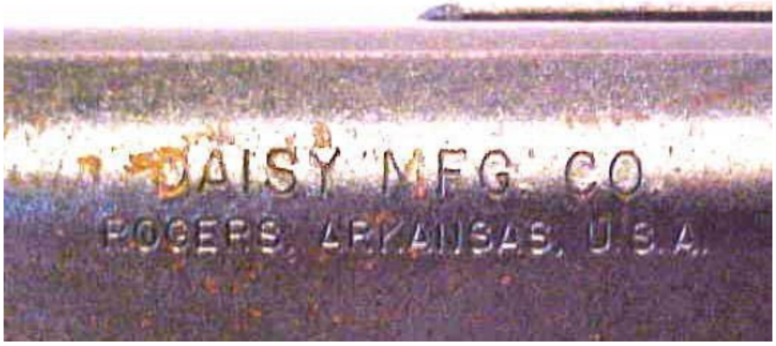


There are two features on the Daisy 634 that are significantly different from the Parris models. The base of the bolt handle guides the bolt in the receiver and becomes the locking mechanism when the bolt is rotated closed. This approach is more like a modern bolt action rifle. The butt stock has a pistol grip which also makes it look more like a modern rifle.

It is uncertain if Daisy or Parris produced the metal parts that were used on their trainers or got them from a sub-contractor. Due to the similarity of many of the parts, it is possible that both companies purchased the metal parts from a third party. I suspect that both companies produced the wooden stocks for their toy rifles and assembled them in their respective factories.

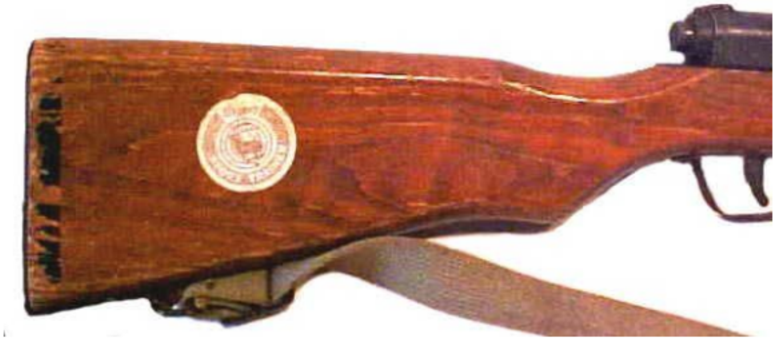
The side of the receiver is marked:

DAISY MFG. CO.
ROGERS, ARKANSAS



There is a round paper label on the right side of the butt stock that is marked:

DAISY
SPORT TRAINER



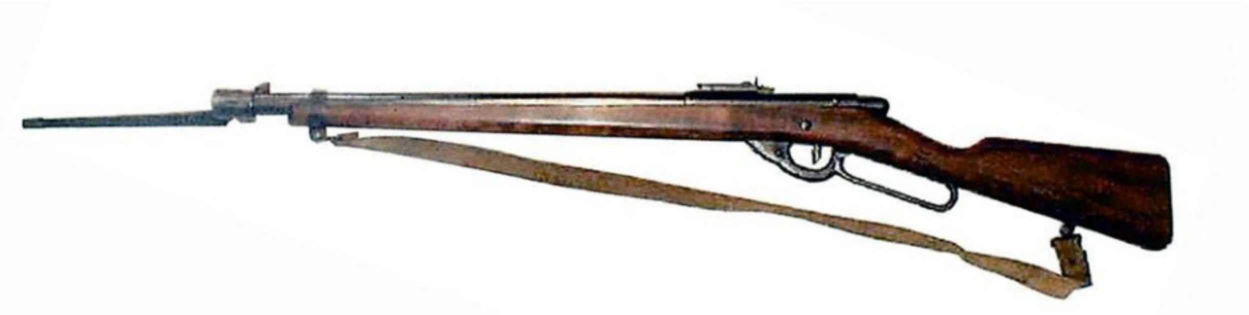
The model 634 was equipped with a rubber bayonet. It has been verified that Daisy purchased these from another company. The design of the bayonet mounting lug is identical on the Daisy and Parris rifles that were produced in the 1960's. The early Parris TraineRifles had the bayonet lug mounted on the barrel rather than being inserted into the end of the forearm. The grip design of both bayonets is nearly identical. The Daisy bayonet is the same length as the Parris bayonet but the blade is double edged. I suspect that both Daisy and Parris Mfg. Co. contracted with the same firm to supply their bayonets.

The following pictures clearly show the shape and marking of the Daisy bayonet.

Photo by Shawn Gibson

Photo by Shawn Gibson

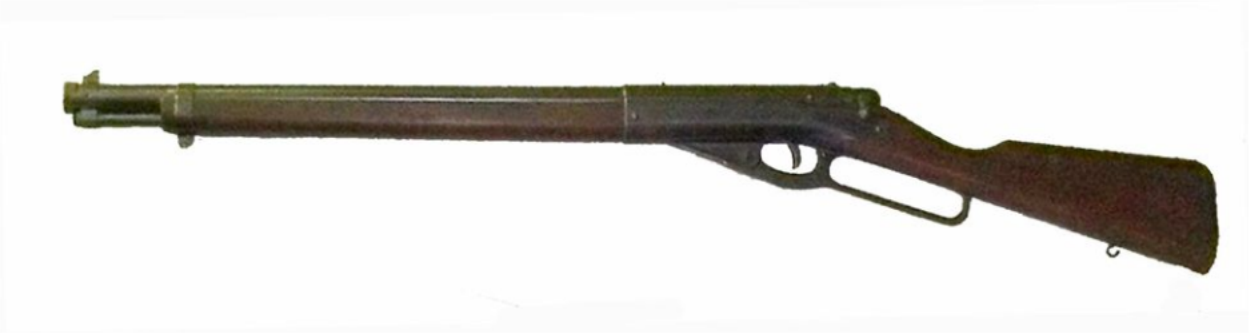
Daisy Model 40 Defender



In 1916, prior to the start of WWI, Daisy introduced the Model 40 Defender air rifle. It was marketed toward the "Future Defenders of America". The production of this rifle continued until 1932. During this time period approximately 237,000 were sold. While this is not a typical training rifle it was sold with that intent. It has many of the characteristics of a military rifle and it carried a bayonet and a cloth sling. The bayonet was made of steel but had a rubber tip which was designed to reduce the hazard. This bayonet certainly was an invitation for young boys to get into trouble. I suspect that most parents removed the bayonets before the child got the gun, making these bayonets very scarce and valuable today.

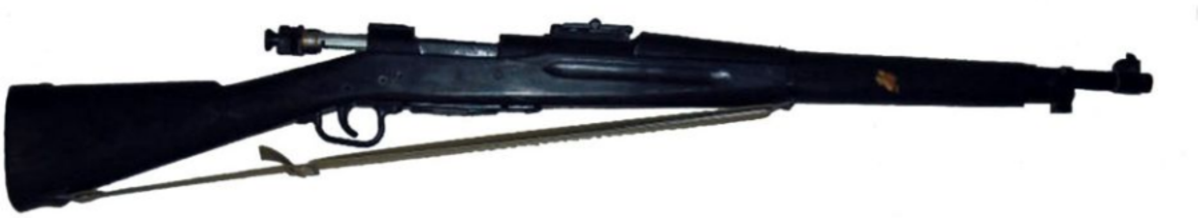
The Model 40 was 37 inches long and had a 50 shot magazine. It had a full length wooden stock and the metal parts had a blued finish.

Daisy Model 140 Defender

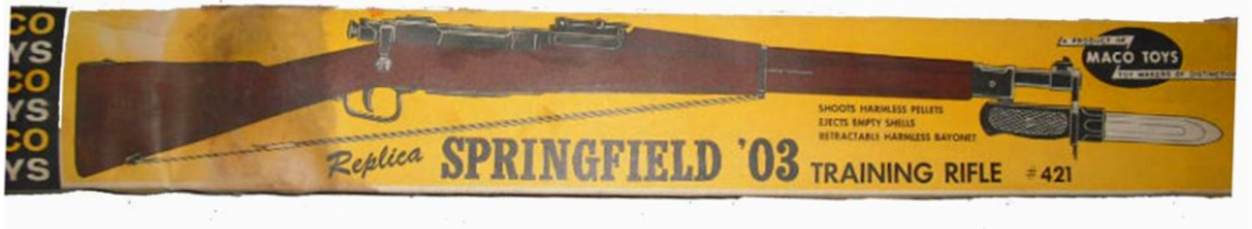


The Model 140 was planned for introduction in January of 1942. WWII broke out in December of 1941 and all production of this model ceased early in 1942. It was only sold for a few months and total sales were approximately 28,000 units. It had many of the same characteristics of the Model 40, however, it did not have any provision for a bayonet. It used a magazine tube under the barrel which had a much greater capacity than the Model 40. This model is very rare today.

Maco Training Rifle



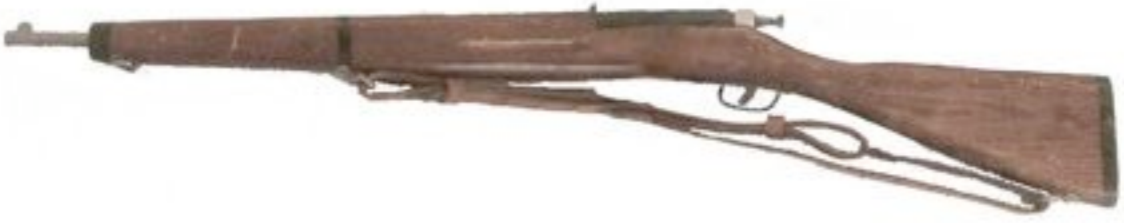
No. 421 SPRINGFIELD '03 TRAINING RIFLE — INSTRUCTIONS
MACO TOYS INC.
SPRINGFIELD '03 TRAINING RIFLE
Replica
MACO TOYS


A PRODUCT OF
MACO TOYS
SHOOTS HARMLESS PELLETS
EJECTS EMPTY SHELLS
RETRACTABLE HARMLESS BAYONET
Replica SPRINGFIELD '03 TRAINING RIFLE #421

This training rifle is an undersized plastic replica of the 1903 Springfield rifle. It had an operating bolt and fired some type of round projectiles. It was sold by the MACO Toy Company during the 1950's and early 1960's. This company specialized in a line of war related toys. They had offices in Brooklyn, NY and produced a catalog of about 30 pages in a comic book format.

It is unknown who actually produced these rifles or how many specimens they produced. These were toys and had no military application. There is no indication that they were used by drill teams. This is probably due to the fact that they were undersize and underweight.

Haubert, H. - Dummy Training Rifle

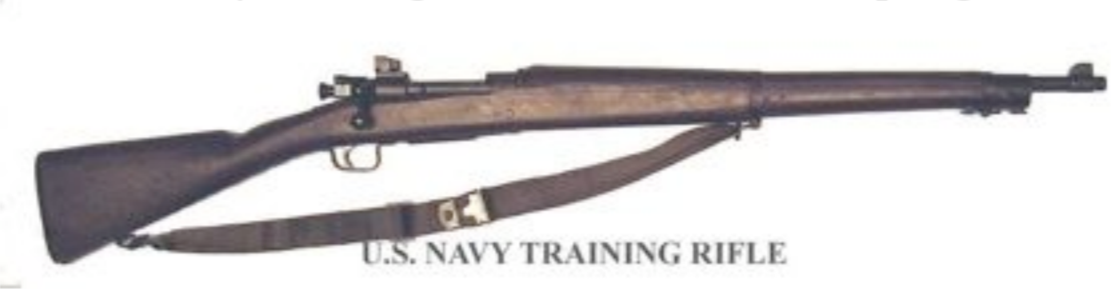


This training rifle is somewhat of an anomaly. The butt plate is marked as follows:

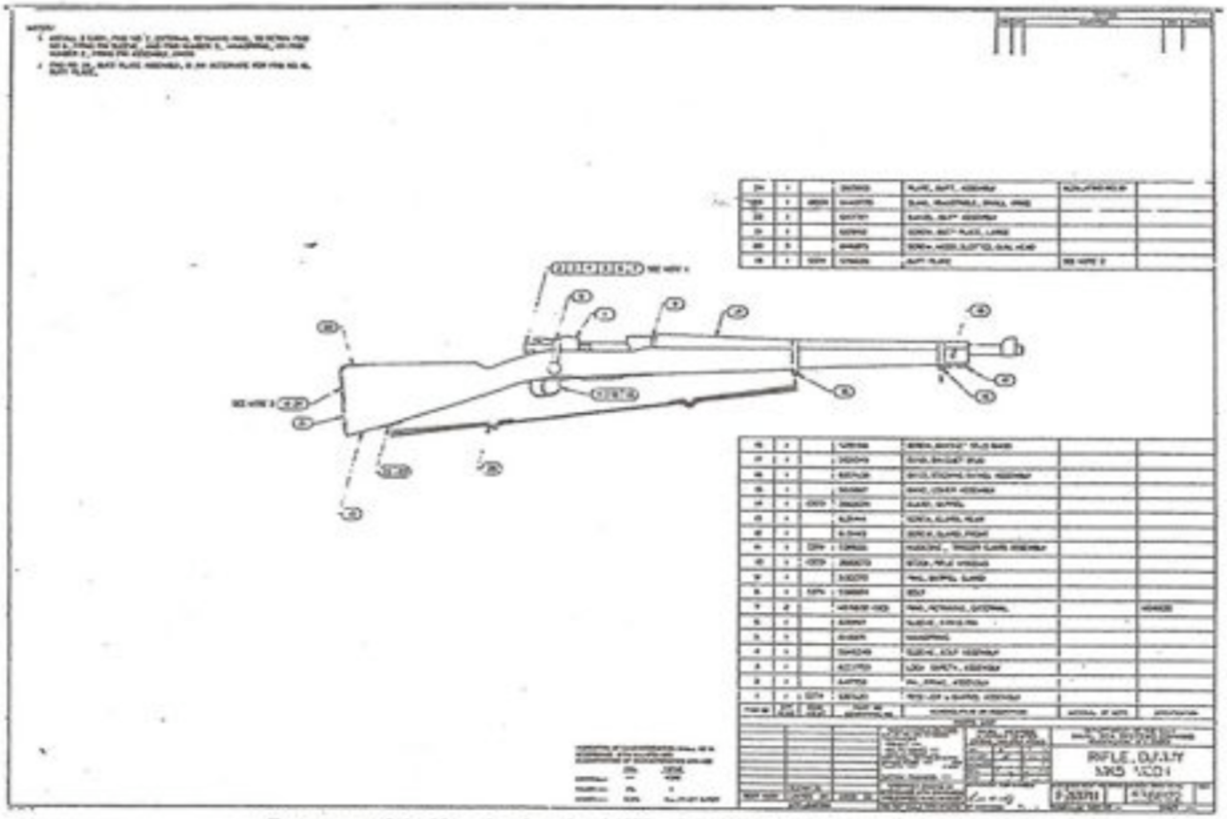
HAUBERT, H.
DUMMY TRAINING RIFLE

It appears to be identical to the Model B-M-30 "Senior Drill Team" Trainerifle that was produced by the Parris Mfg. Co. following WWII. Due to the fact that there is a fixed rear sight this rifle was probably made about 1960. This "training rifle" is certainly a drill rifle. It would be interesting to know whom Haubert, H. was and what connection he had with the Parris Mfg. Co. It seems likely that Haubert purchased a small quantity of these drill rifles from the Parris Mfg. Co. and had his name stamped on the butt plate.

US Navy Training Rifle - Model 1903-A3 Springfield



The following information was copied from “The Springfield 1903 Rifles” by William Brophy.



Department of the Navy drawing, dated 1978, of the MK5 MOD 1 dummy rifle.

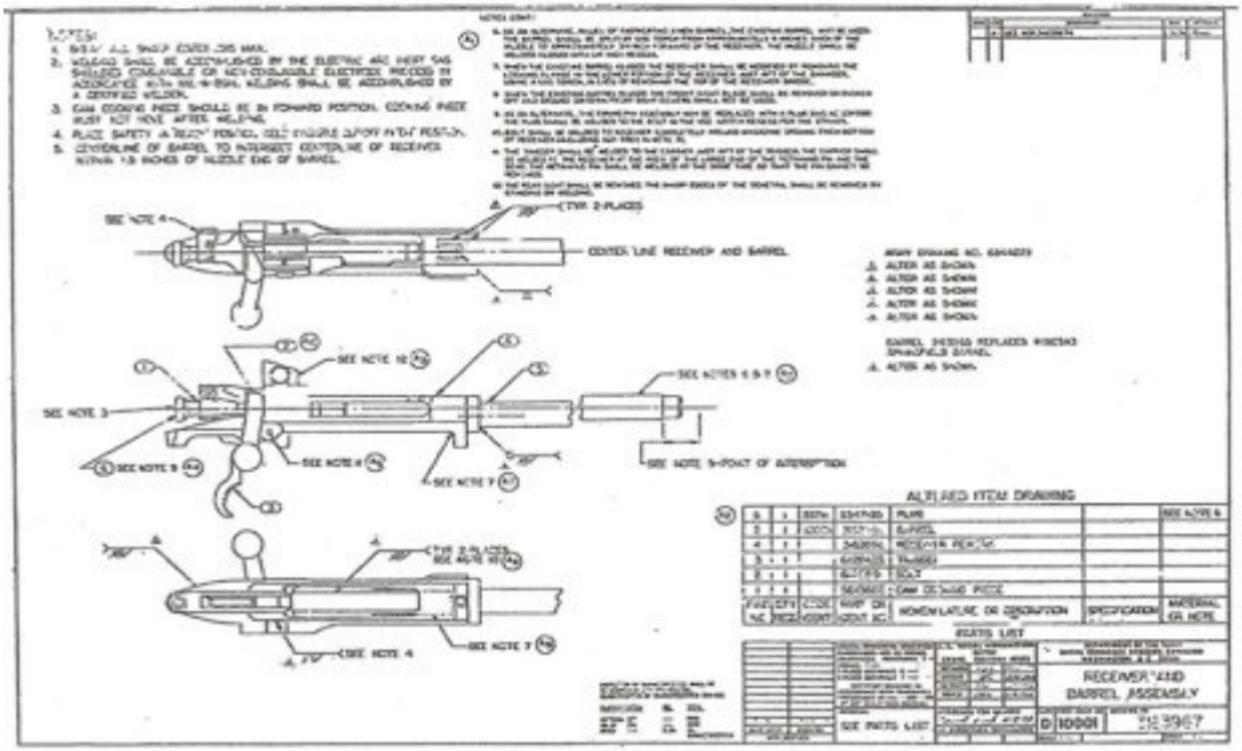
fying the Model 1903A3 rifle. The first, the MARK 5 MOD O, was altered as follows:

1. All sharp edges broken .015 maximum.
2. Welding shall be in accordance with MIl-W-8611 and done by a certified welder.
3. Cocking piece shall be in the forward position and must not move after welding.
4. Safety welded in "READY" position.
5. Magazine cut-off welded in "ON" position.
6. Centerline of barrel to align with barrel within ±.5 inch.
7. The original barrel may be used. It shall be split by gas torch from 6 inches back of the muzzle to ¾ inch forward of the receiver.
8. The muzzle will be welded closed with a ¼-inch recess.
9. When the original barrel is used, the lower portion of the receiver just to the rear of the chamber will be removed by a gas torch. This is in lieu of removing the top of the receiver.
10. The front sight blade removed or broken off and smoothed. The front sight cover is not used.
11. As an alternate, the bolt sleeve, cocking piece, and firing pin assembly are replaced with a plug welded into the bolt.
12. The bolt is welded to the receiver completely around the magazine opening from the bottom of the receiver.
13. The trigger is welded to the sear and the sear welded to the receiver. The sear and trigger pins are welded in place.
14. The rear sight removed and all sharp corners removed from the dovetail.

An alternate barrel method was to weld a round piece of steel into the receiver. A front sight cover was welded to this barrel to simulate a front sight.

The 1978 MARK 5 MOD 1 rifle was the same as the 1973 MARK 5 MOD O rifle except for the allowance of the use of a non-'03A3 butt plate and the welding of a socket head capscrew into the chamber. The screw was welded into place by first cutting into the chamber from the top of the receiver and then welding the screw, barrel, and receiver all together.

Both of these Navy dummy rifles had the original receiver markings and serial number removed by a gas torch or grinding. A small plate marked with the model and a new serial number was welded over this place on the receiver.



Department of the Navy drawing dated 1973 of the modification of a Model 1903A3 rifle receiver and the installation of a dummy barrel in the making of a Navy dummy rifle.

Along with the plastic stock and hand guard, a non-issue two-buckle web sling was used with the Navy dummy rifles MARK 5 MOD O and MARK 5 MOD 1.

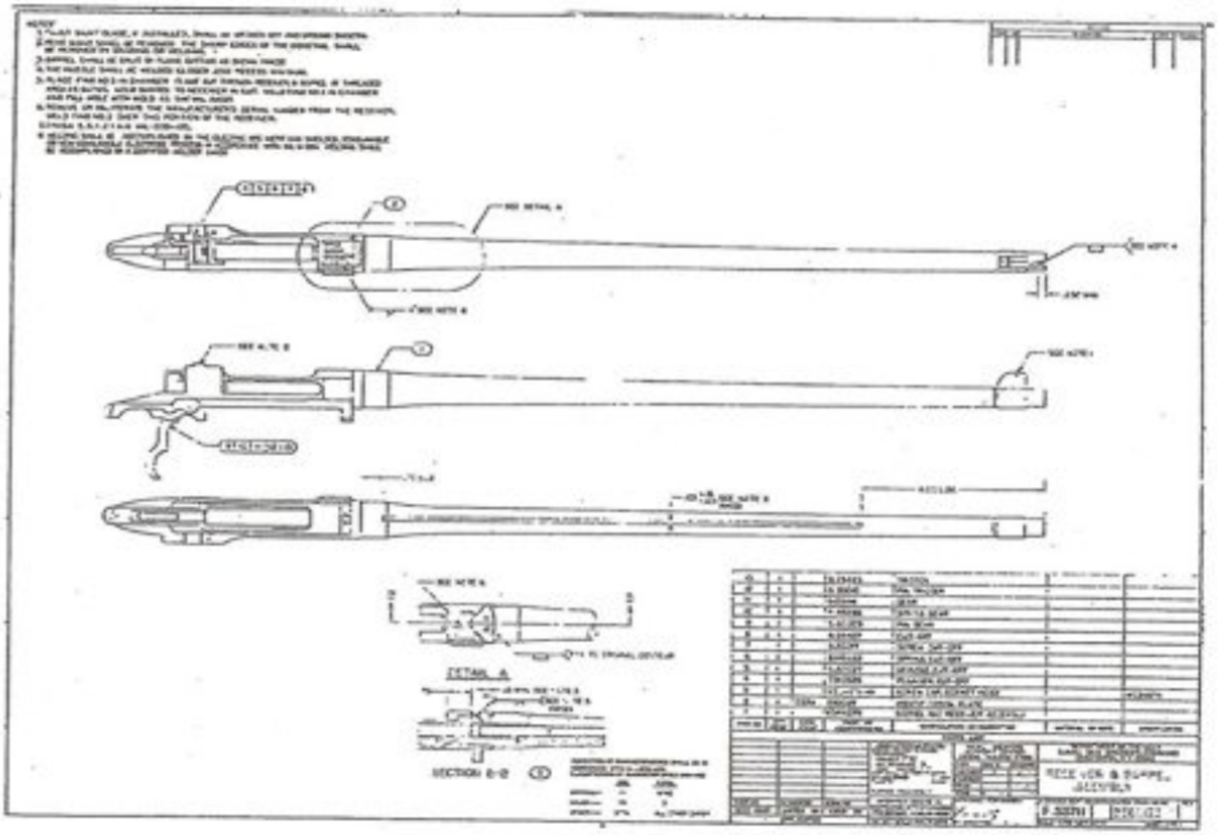
Frequently the '03 collector will encounter '03 rifles that have been assembled of different vintage parts that are welded inoperative, similar to the Navy dummy rifles. One in this writer's collection has the tang screws welded in place, the cut-off welded in the OFF position, the firing pin hole in the face of the bolt welded closed, the firing pin ground off, a round piece of steel driven into the bore and chamber, and a plug driven into the bore at the muzzle. The rifle has a Springfield 1918 barrel and a receiver with the serial number 70,939. The bolt and its parts are 1903A3. The stock is a 1905/03A3 stock with a 03A3 butt plate. The bayonet lug on the upper band has been modified to accept a bayonet other than one for the '03 rifle. The hand guard is concave and has a sight clearance cut. The trigger guard and floor plate are of the milled type.

A number of similar mixed-part dummy rifles have been inspected. The most common characteristics of these rifles are the low-serial-numbered receivers and the use of many 1903A3 parts. It is probable that they were assembled and sold for use by patriotic organizations for drill teams and color guards.

Plastic stocks and plastic hand guards for the Model 1903A3 rifle have been sold in the surplus parts market. They are the same parts as used on the current Navy dummy rifle; however, they are probably seconds or an overrun by the contractor that made them for the Navy.

The *Defense Demilitarization Manual* (DOD 4160.21-M-1, October, 1981) published by the Department of Defense outlines the modification of Model 1903 rifles safe for drill purposes as follows:

1. Remove stock, hand guard, and bolt assembly.
2. Remove striking end of firing pin by grinding off at least ½ inch or removing the firing pin.
3. Close firing pin hole in face of bolt by welding.
4. Weld the barrel to the receiver, utilizing a high-heat-range, carbide-impregnated welding rod. The length of weld will be a minimum of one inch.
5. Insert a steel rod (drill rod) .300 inches in diameter and 4 inches long into the barrel through the chamber end, allowing a portion of the rod to extend into the chamber to prevent introduction of a cartridge.
6. Utilizing an acetylene torch, arc welder cutting electrode, or ¾-inch drill, burn or drill through the upper portion of the barrel directly above and into the steel segment installed in the barrel bore. This is approximately 1½ inches forward of the receiver. Using a high-heat-range, carbon-impregnated welding rod, apply weld into the bore cavity only.



7. With the bolt assembled to the receiver, weld the cut-off to the receiver in the "OFF" position. Also use a high-heat-range, carbide-impregnated welding rod to perform the task.
8. Reassemble stock and hand guard.

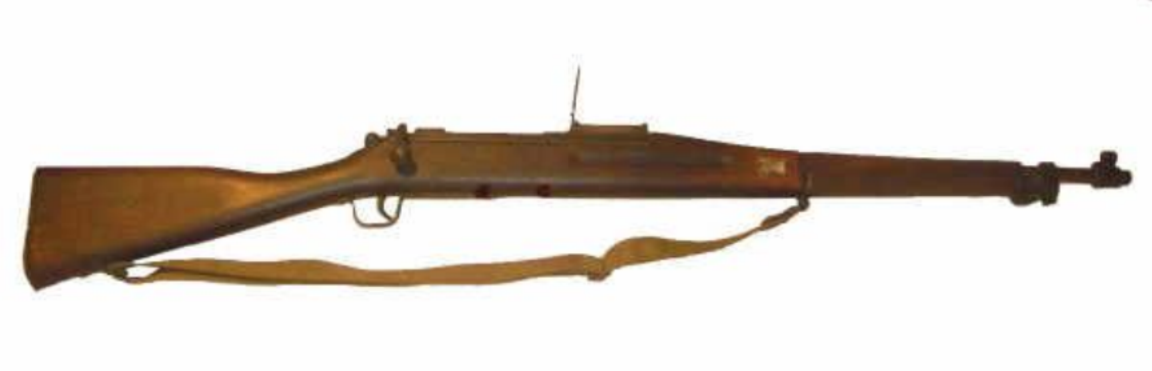
NOTE: An exception to the above modification requirement may be granted by the U.S. Army Armament Material Readiness Command (DRSAR-MMD-D) on a case-by-case basis, when rifles are required by veterans organizations for ceremonial firing of blank ammunition. Such rifles will be certified as safe to fire blank ammunition.

By donation or loan of condemned or obsolete combat materiel to municipal corporations, posts of recognized war veterans organizations, etc., as authorized by 10 USC 2572, 10 USC 7545, 10 USC 7308, 10 USC 4683, 10 USC 7546, or other similar statutes. However, except as hereinafter provided, minimum demilitarization of such items will be accomplished to render them unserviceable in the interest of public health or safety, but in a manner so as to preserve the historical or display value of the property. Minimum demilitarization need not be made on obsolete rifles being donated to recognized veterans associations for ceremonial purposes.

DoD minimum demilitarization is described as follows:

1. Weld bead on the face of bolt so that firing pin and surrounding area are covered. It is not necessary to remove firing pin.
2. Weld barrel to receiver.
3. Run a bead of welding around the shoulder of barrel chamber so that a cartridge cannot be inserted into the chamber.

Detroit Composition Company Training Rifle

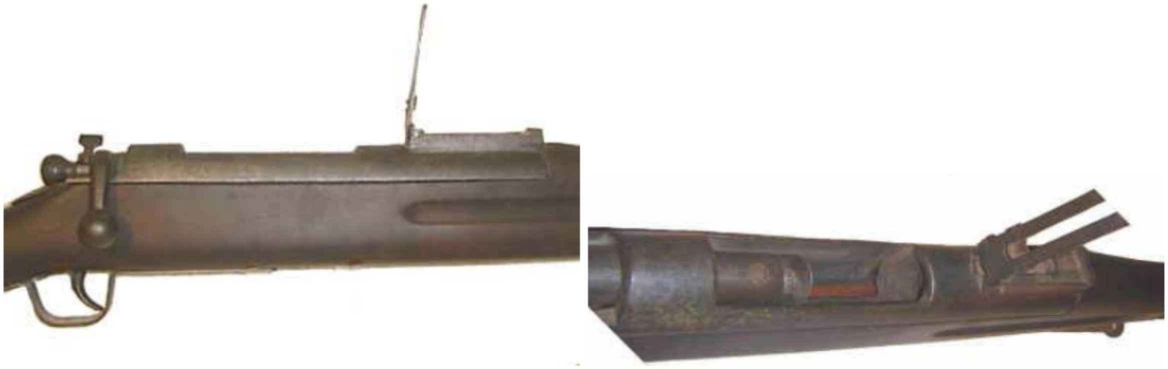


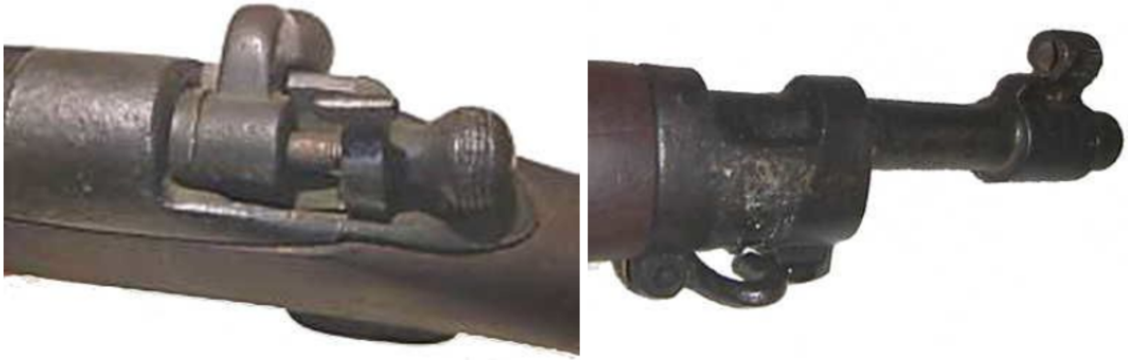
This training rifle was made by the Detroit Composition Company. Nothing is known about the company at this time. It is patterned after the 1903 Springfield rifle. It weighs 6 1/4 lb. and is 43 1/2 inches long. This is slightly lighter in weight but very close to the Springfield dimensions.

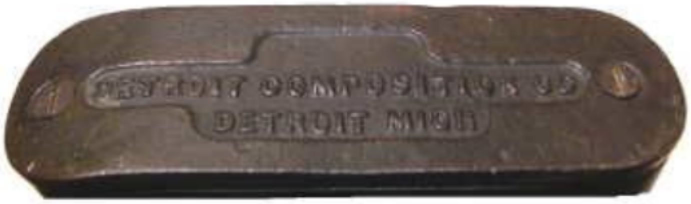
This is one of the better reproductions of 1903 Springfield rifle. The barrel muzzle, front barrel band, and front sight are made in one piece out of cast iron. This casting also has a stacking swivel and a bayonet lug. The receiver, rear barrel extension, and the rear sight base are also cast as one piece. There is no barrel section running through the stock. The trigger guard is formed from a steel strip. It has a functional bolt with an operational safety. The bolt handle, safety, and cockling knob are made of cast iron. The bolt body is a steel shaft. When the bolt is operated, it cocks the striker and the trigger will release the striker shaft when the safety is released. There is no cartridge chamber or firing pin. The rear sight has a functional slide. The butt plate is also made of cast iron and has the name and address cast in place.

The stock is made of walnut and very well shaped and finished. There are no serial numbers or markings on any part of the rifle other than the butt plate.

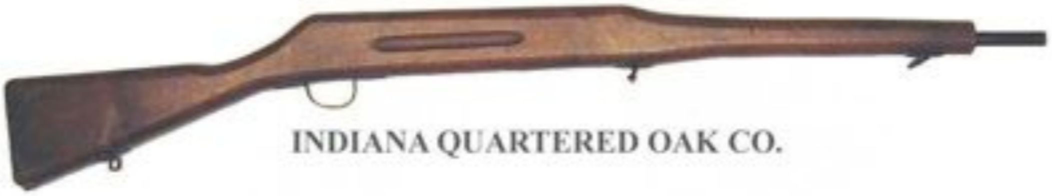
It was originally purchased from a man who stated that it was made early in the 1900's for the Detroit Armory. I would speculate that they were made between 1915 and 1920. It seems probable that a relatively small number of these training rifles were made at the start of WWI and used by trainees at the Detroit Armory. To date, no advertisements or contracts have surfaced for these training rifles.





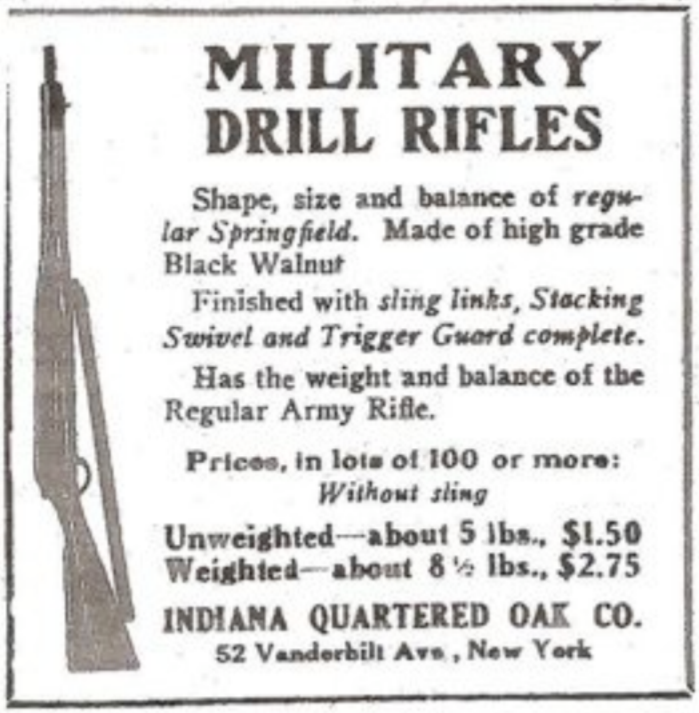

DETROIT COMPOSITION CO
DETROIT MICH

Indiana Quartered Oak Co. - Military Drill Rifle



This drill rifle was made in un-weighted and weighted models. Both of these had the same external appearance. The rifle illustrated above is the weighted model. To bring the weight up to 8 ½ lb. a 1" diameter steel rod 8" long was inserted in the action area and a 3" piece was inserted into the butt stock. These holes were then plugged with a short wooden dowel. The barrel on both models was a 5" length of 5/8" diameter steel rod. The added weights gave their rifle the same weight and balance as the 1903 Springfield rifle.

The advertisement below shows a rifle with a sling attached although no sling is specified in the list of included items. I suspect that you were required to provide your own sling if one was needed.



MILITARY DRILL RIFLES

Shape, size and balance of *regular Springfield.* Made of high grade Black Walnut

Finished with *sling links, Stacking Swivel and Trigger Guard complete.*

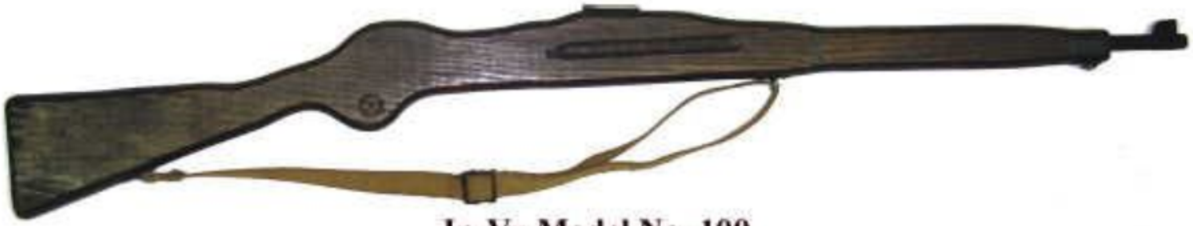
Has the weight and balance of the Regular Army Rifle.

Prices, in lots of 100 or more:
Without sling

Unweighted—about 5 lbs., $1.50
Weighted—about 8 ½ lbs., $2.75

INDIANA QUARTERED OAK CO.
52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York

In-Vu Wood Rifle



In-Vu Model No. 100

In an advertisement from 1918 the In-Vu Mfg. Co. address is listed as 8 Lehigh Ave. Geneva, N.Y. It should be noted that Lehigh Ave. was renamed Lehigh Street in the 1930's to be consistent with the orientation of streets and avenues in Geneva. During WWI this area was on the northern edge of the City of Geneva and was comprised of warehouse type buildings.

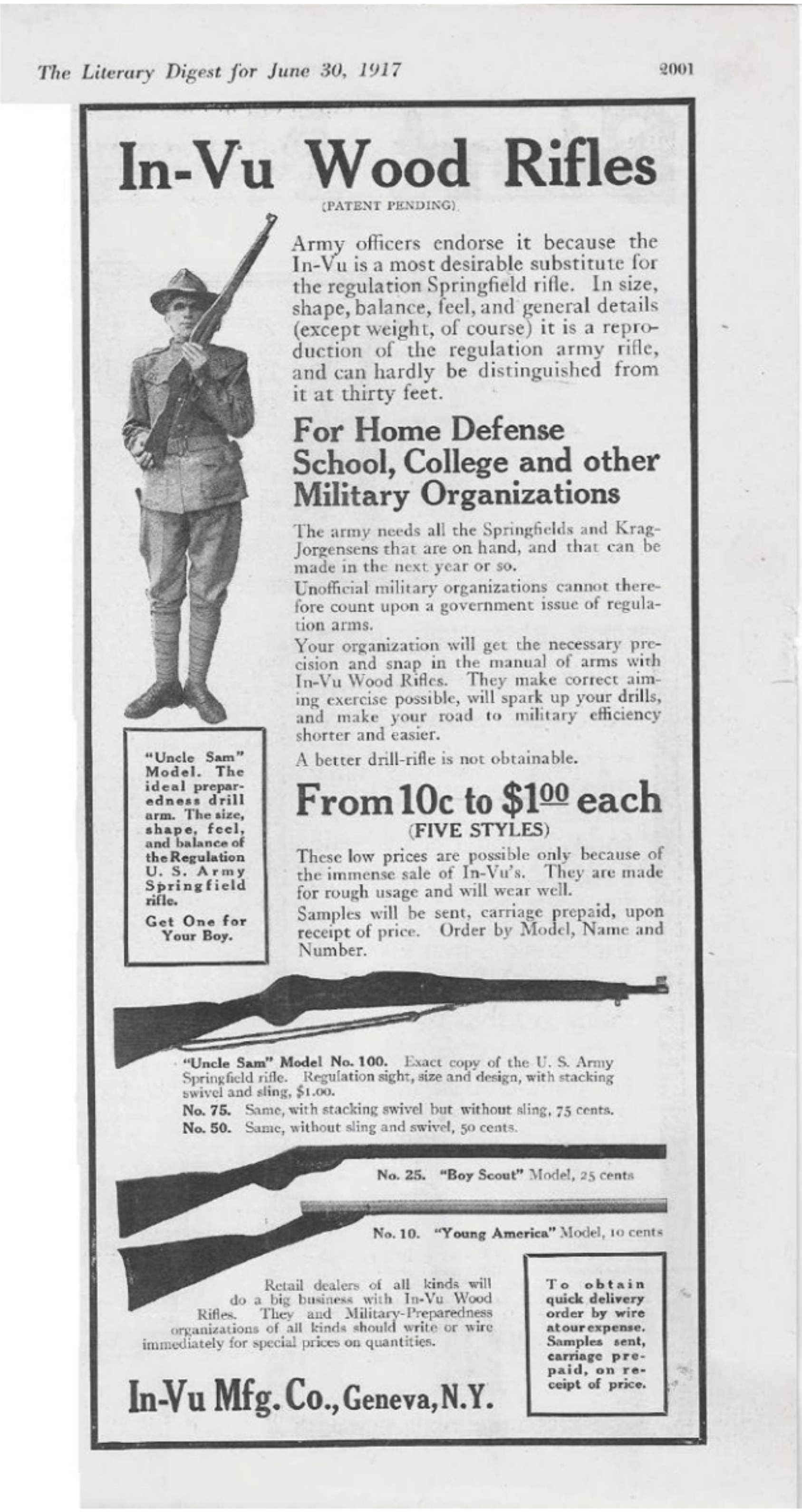
None of the Business Directories for that period list the In-Vu Mfg. Co. This would indicate that they were being manufactured by some other company. The Assessor's Office in Geneva has indicated that in the early 1920's the property at 8 Lehigh Ave was owned by the Torrey Park Lumber Company. This company is listed in the Geneva Business Directory from 1901 through 1910. In 1901 they are listed as "Dealers in Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Wall Plaster". This would be an indication that they must have had a production facility as well as a lumber yard. The 1905-6 directory lists the Torrey Park Lumber Yard address as "North Genesee Street near the L V Ry crossing". The letters stand for the Leigh Valley Railroad. The rail line crossed North Genesee Street just south of Avenue D, which places the Torrey Park Lumber Yard less than a block away from 8 Lehigh Ave. The 1907-8 directory also lists the Torrey Park Lumber Co. at this location. In 1909-10, Torrey Park Lumber Co. had no special advertisement but was listed as one of three lumber yards in the area. It is interesting to note that a Eugene Cuddeback is listed as manager of both the Torrey Park and Rogers Lumber Companies at this time. They were not listed in the Geneva Business directory between 1910 and the early 1920's, but there is evidence that they remained in business during this period.

Although there is no positive documentation, it seems highly probable that the Torrey Park Lumber Company was associated with the In-Vu Manufacturing Co. Due to the proximity of the two locations it is possible that the In-Vu name was derived from the fact that the two buildings were in view of each other. I suspect that the Torrey Park Lumber Co. supplied the lumber for the wood rifles and that they were produced in their warehouse facility at 8 Lehigh Ave.

In a 1918 advertisement they indicate that 60,000 of their Drill Rifles were in use. They advertised widely during 1917-18 and this, combined with their low cost, makes the 60,000 figure seem reasonable. There is no evidence that they had any military contracts for these wooden rifles, although their advertisements do imply that the Ordnance Chief of the US War Department endorsed them. There are no markings on these drill rifles to indicate the manufacturer or the number produced and they have no moving parts. I find their description of their training rifles to be an exaggeration at best. They have the same general profile of the 1903 Springfield but are much thinner and lighter in weight. They are considerably short of being an exact copy of the 1903 Springfield, as stated in their advertisements. Their primary assets were that they were durable and very inexpensive. With WWI ending, I suspect that demand dropped to the point that it was no longer profitable to produce these drill rifles. They probably stopped production by 1920 but they may have continued to sell their remaining stock until the supply was depleted.

The earliest advertisement that has been located was in the June 30 issue of the Literary Digest. In this advertisement they list 5 different styles. The No. 100, 75, and 50 styles were all the 1903 pattern. The No. 25 Boy Scout and the No. 10 Young American basically simplified toys. It should be noted that later in 1917 their advertisements did not list these "toys". I suspect that there was not sufficient demand for these items to warrant the cost of their production. Later in 1917 they introduced a different No. 25 style that was a shortened version of the 1903 Springfield pattern. The full size No. 100 was 43" long while the new No 25 "Rookie" was only 38" long. The Rookie style had a similar stock profile to the No. 100 but had no round wooden dowel for a barrel. The No. 75 and No. 50 were the same size and shape as the No. 100 but had fewer accessories. The Lee Enfield pattern was not listed in their advertisements prior to 1918. Therefore, the majority of their production would have been of the 1903 Springfield pattern. The stocks appear to have been made from a soft wood and stained to look like walnut. The wood was probably harvested locally. All of the models had a similar profile and thickness. The No. 150, 100, 75, and 50 had a short wooden dowel that was inserted into the front of the forearm for a barrel. The No. 25 "Rookie" was the lowest grade and had no barrel or swivels.

The following advertisement was found in the Literary Digest dated June 30, 1917.



The Literary Digest for June 30, 1917 2001

In-Vu Wood Rifles

(PATENT PENDING)

Army officers endorse it because the In-Vu is a most desirable substitute for the regulation Springfield rifle. In size, shape, balance, feel, and general details (except weight, of course) it is a reproduction of the regulation army rifle, and can hardly be distinguished from it at thirty feet.

For Home Defense School, College and other Military Organizations

The army needs all the Springfields and Krag-Jorgensens that are on hand, and that can be made in the next year or so.

Unofficial military organizations cannot therefore count upon a government issue of regulation arms.

Your organization will get the necessary precision and snap in the manual of arms with In-Vu Wood Rifles. They make correct aiming exercise possible, will spark up your drills, and make your road to military efficiency shorter and easier.

A better drill-rifle is not obtainable.

"Uncle Sam" Model. The ideal preparedness drill arm. The size, shape, feel, and balance of the Regulation U. S. Army Springfield rifle.

Get One for Your Boy.

From 10c to $1.00 each

(FIVE STYLES)

These low prices are possible only because of the immense sale of In-Vu's. They are made for rough usage and will wear well.

Samples will be sent, carriage prepaid, upon receipt of price. Order by Model, Name and Number.

"Uncle Sam" Model No. 100. Exact copy of the U. S. Army Springfield rifle. Regulation sight, size and design, with stacking swivel and sling, $1.00.

No. 75. Same, with stacking swivel but without sling, 75 cents.

No. 50. Same, without sling and swivel, 50 cents.

No. 25. "Boy Scout" Model, 25 cents

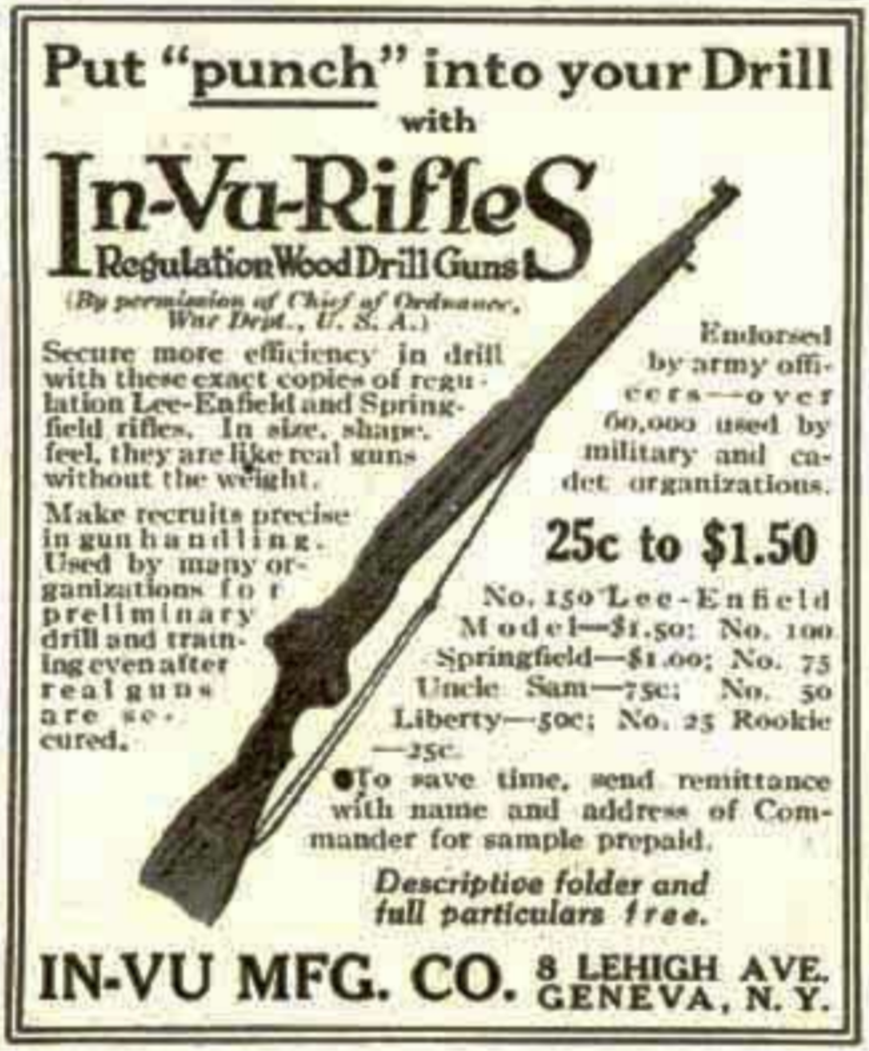
No. 10. "Young America" Model, 10 cents

Retail dealers of all kinds will do a big business with In-Vu Wood Rifles. They and Military-Preparedness organizations of all kinds should write or wire immediately for special prices on quantities.

To obtain quick delivery order by wire at our expense. Samples sent, carriage prepaid, on receipt of price.

In-Vu Mfg. Co., Geneva, N.Y.

The following advertisement is undated but was found in a 1918 periodical.



Put "punch" into your Drill

with

In-Vu-RifleS

Regulation Wood Drill Guns

(By permission of Chief of Ordnance, War Dept., U. S. A.)

Secure more efficiency in drill with these exact copies of regulation Lee-Enfield and Springfield rifles. In size, shape, feel, they are like real guns without the weight.

Make recruits precise in gun handling. Used by many organizations for preliminary drill and training even after real guns are secured.

Endorsed by army officers—over 60,000 used by military and cadet organizations.

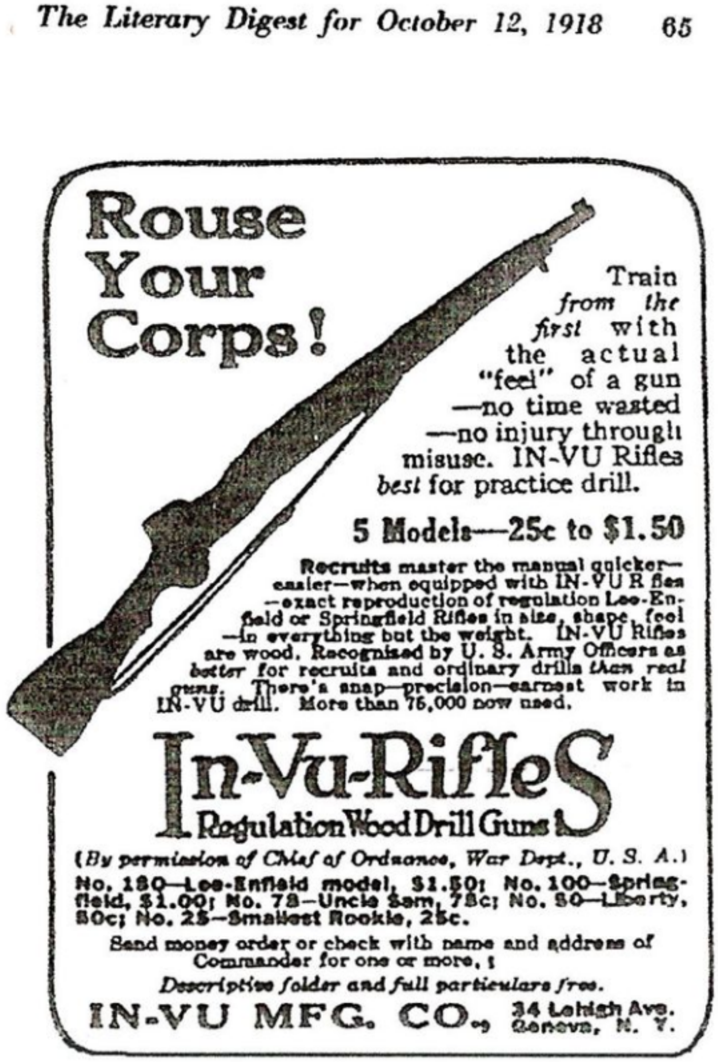
25c to $1.50

No. 150 Lee-Enfield Model—$1.50; No. 100 Springfield—$1.00; No. 75 Uncle Sam—75c; No. 50 Liberty—50c; No. 25 Rookie—25c.

● To save time, send remittance with name and address of Commander for sample prepaid.

Descriptive folder and full particulars free.

IN-VU MFG. CO. 8 LEHIGH AVE.
GENEVA, N. Y.



The Literary Digest for October 12, 1918 65

Rouse Your Corps!

Train *from the first* with the actual "feel" of a gun —no time wasted —no injury through misuse. IN-VU Rifles *best* for practice drill.

5 Models—25c to $1.50

Recruits master the manual quicker—easier—when equipped with IN-VU Rifles—exact reproduction of regulation Lee-Enfield or Springfield Rifles in size, shape, feel—in everything but the weight. IN-VU Rifles are wood. Recognized by U. S. Army Officers as *better* for recruits and ordinary drills *than real guns*. There's snap—precision—earnest work in IN-VU drill. More than 75,000 now used.

In-Vu-Rifles

Regulation Wood Drill Guns

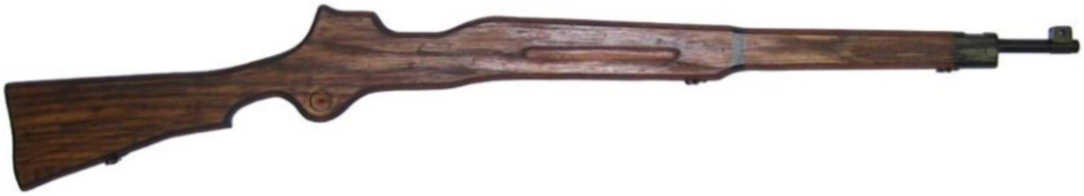
(By permission of Chief of Ordnance, War Dept., U. S. A.)

No. 150—Lee-Enfield model, $1.50; No. 100—Springfield, $1.00; No. 75—Uncle Sam, 75c; No. 50—Liberty, 50c; No. 25—Smallest Rookie, 25c.

Send money order or check with name and address of Commander for one or more.

Descriptive folder and full particulars free.

IN-VU MFG. CO., 34 Lehigh Ave. Geneva, N. Y.



I am indebted to Karen Osburn of the Geneva Historical Society for the following information. She located an advertisement in the October 12, 1918 issue of the Literary Digest for the In-Vu Mfg. Co. This advertisement gives new insight into the production of the In-Vu training rifles.

It should be noted that the address for the Inn-Vu Mfg. Co. changed from 8 Lehigh Ave. to 34 Lehigh Ave. in Geneva, NY. I do not have the precise date for an early 1918 advertisement with the 8 Lehigh Ave. address, but I am certain that it was before the October 12 date. In the earlier add it indicates that there were 60,000 training rifles in use and in the October 12 add it indicates that 75,000 were in use.

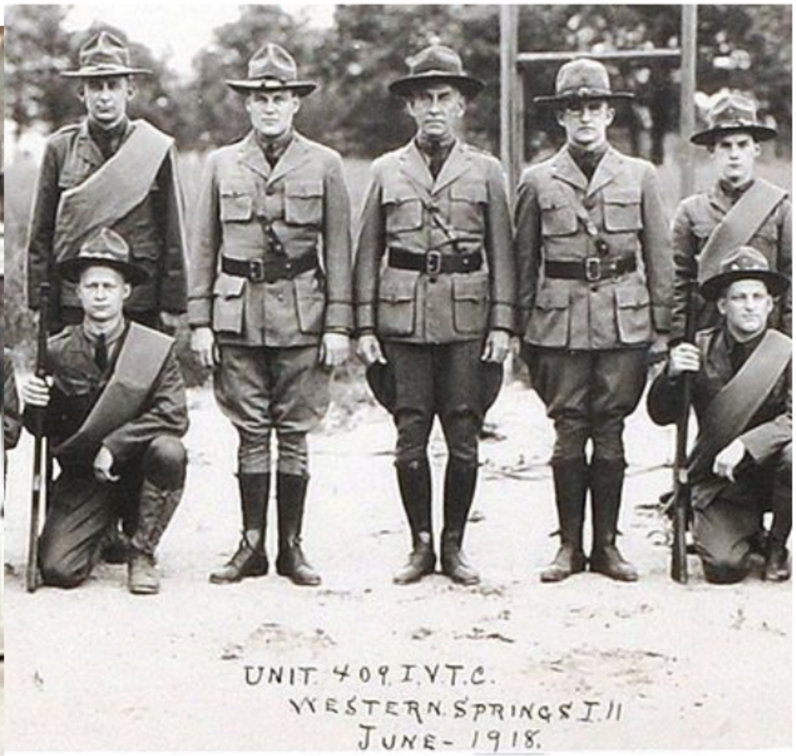
The Army and Navy Journal and the Literary Digest are the only periodicals where I have located advertisements for the In-Vu Mfg. Co. I have examined the issues of the Army and Navy Journal and the Literary Digest from 1915 through 1920. The earliest advertisement for the In-Vu Mfg. Co. is found in the Literary Digest issue dated June 30, 1917. No advertisements were found in either periodical after1918.

War against Germany was declared on April 6, 1917, but it had been apparent since January that a war was probably inevitable. From this I would speculate that the In-Vu Mfg. Co. probably started to prepare for the production of training rifles early in 1917 and began advertising their product in June of 1917.

In early September of 1918 the Germans started a "peace initiative" and an armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. I would guess that production of their training rifles stopped with the approaching end to the War. This is based upon the fact of their address change. The 334 Lehigh address is listed as the residence of William Mundt in the 1915-16 and the 1917-18 Geneva City Directories. This address is only a block away from their earlier 8 Lehigh Ave. address. William Mundt died 8/12/1920.

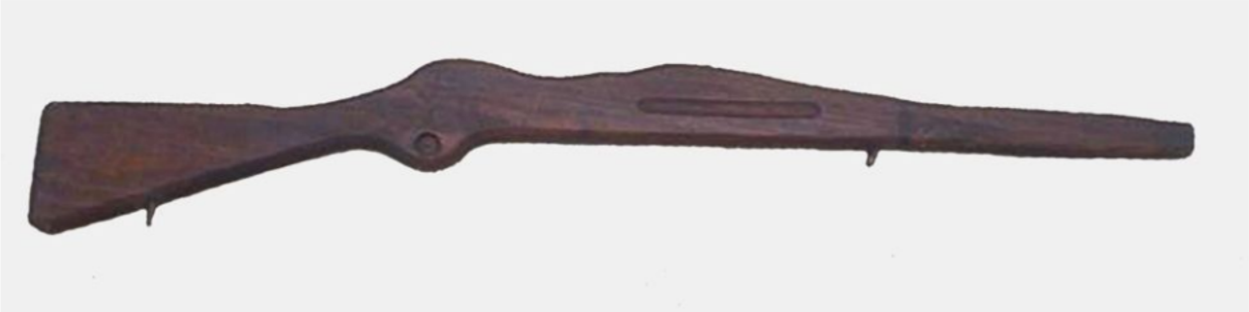
In the 1915-16 City Directory his occupation is listed as "fireman at Geneva Boiler Co." and in the 1917-18 directory he is listed a "employed by Patent Cereals". At the end of the War, I suspect that the market for training rifles had diminished to the point where it was no longer profitable to produce training rifles. Because of his close proximity, Mundt was probably hired part time to sell off the remaining training rifles that In-Vu had in stock. Since Mundt died in August of 1920, it is reasonable to assume that all sales had stopped prior to that date.

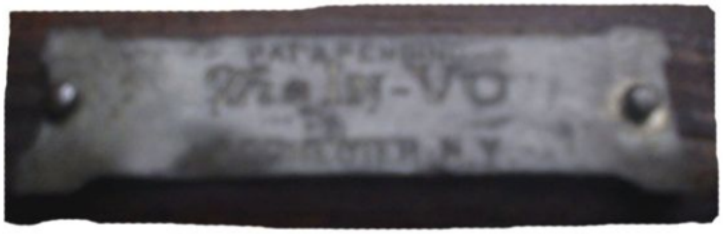
It should be noted that both of the 1918 advertisements illustrate the model No. 150 which is patterned after the 1917 Enfield military rifle rather than the 1903 Springfield. It would be interesting to know why this model was produced during 1918 and for what market.


UNIT 409 I.V.T.C.
WESTERN. SPRINGS ILL
JUNE- 1918.

In-Vu, Rochester, NY

A new and surprising In-Vu model 100 training rifle has surfaced.





It carries a metal plate on top of the stock that states -

PAT'S PENDING
THE IN-VU
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

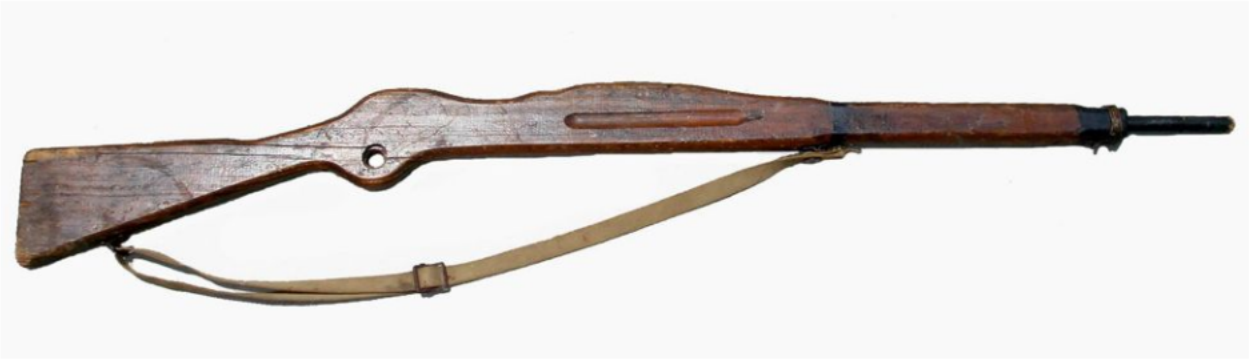
This is the first In-Vu training rifle that I have seen that is identified in any way on the gun. All of the advertisements that appear in magazines are from 1917-18 and list an address in Geneva, New York. I have researched the same magazines from several years prior and after these dates. In no case did I find any advertisements of any kind for the In-Vu training rifles, so I have assumed that they went out of business around 1918. I am uncertain when this In-Vu training rifle might have been produced.

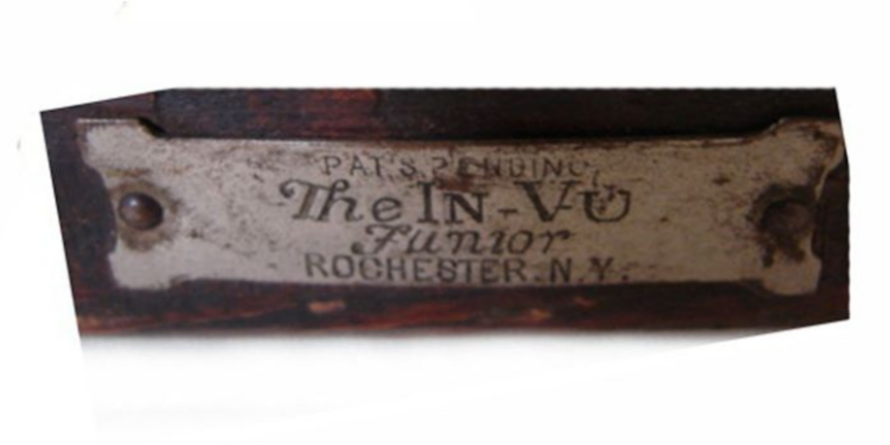
The illustration of this training rifle does not have a barrel section protruding from the front of the fore arm. However, the owner indicates that there is a hole in this area that is the correct size and location for a wooden barrel. I have seen other In-Vu that have two small holes in the top of the stock in the location where the metal identification plate is located. The plate on this specimen is held on by two small nails. I am relatively certain that In-Vu must have used metal identification tags on some of their models, but I have no idea if they showed the Rochester or Geneva address.

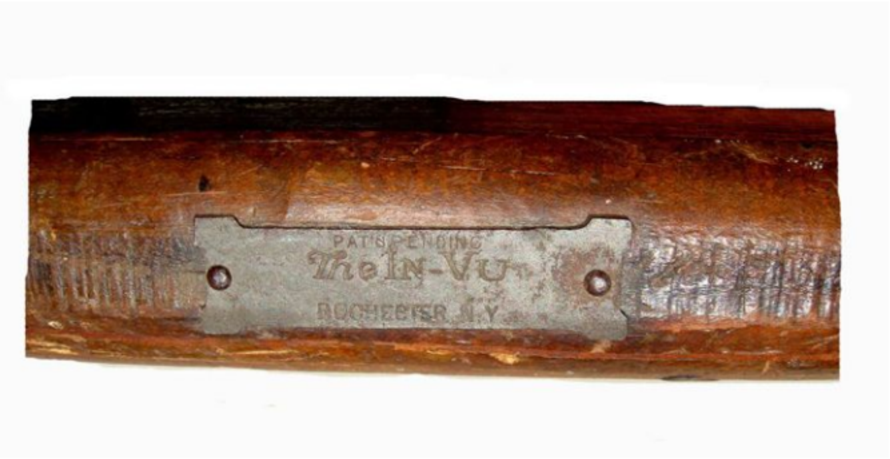
If I were to guess, I would think that this training rifle was produced after 1918 by someone who either had purchased the rights to this training rifle or purchased their remaining stock after 1918 and completed them for private sale. I very much doubt that there was a significant market for these training rifles after WWI and that training rifles marked with the Rochester address must be very rare.

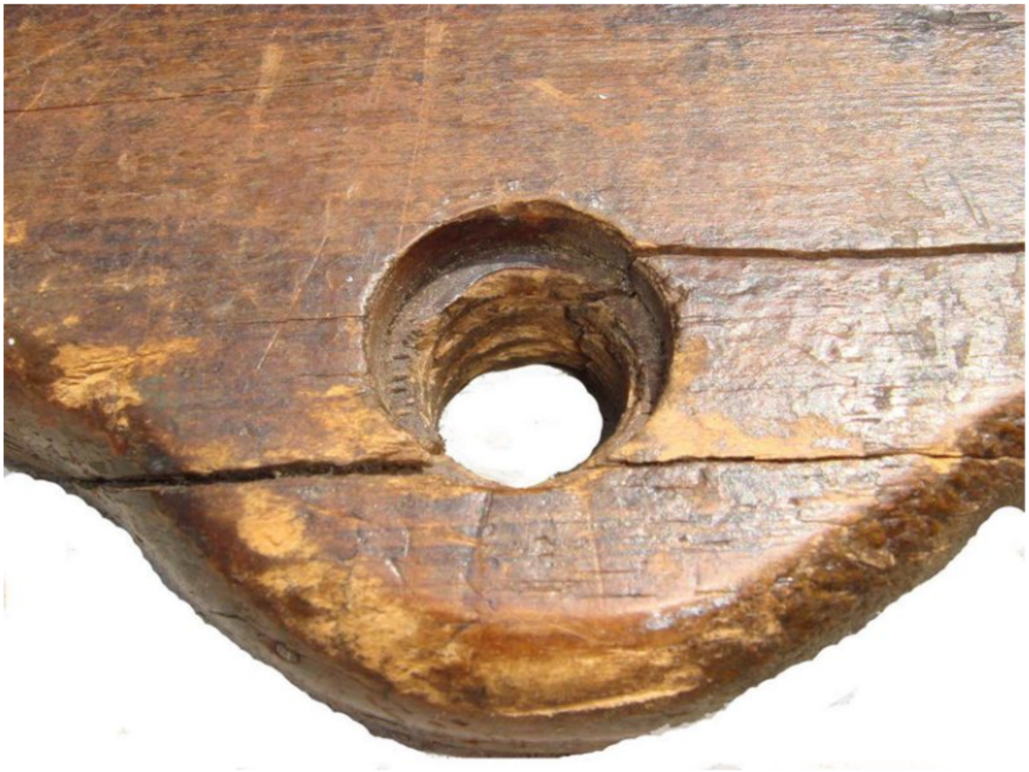
All of the In-Vu advertisements indicate that their rifles are Pat. Pending. This marking has no real meaning as there is nothing sufficiently unique about the In-Vu training rifles to make them eligible for a patent.

Interesting new variations of the IN-VU No.100 have surfaced. They carry a metal plate on the top surface of the stock. None of the IN-VU models made in Geneva, NY have any name plate.









One of the IN-VU training rifles is marked Junior as well as a Rochester, NY address. The second rifle with a Rochester address on the name plate is not marked Junior. Both of these rifles appear to have an identical profile to the No. 100 rifles produced in Geneva. The one exception is that there is a hole through the stock in the trigger recess. I feel that this hole was made by someone after it left the factory. These two rifles are so similar one has to question why one of them would be designated “Junior”.

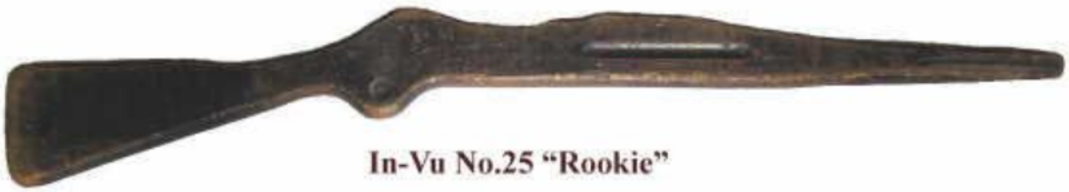
I have researched advertisements that appear in magazines from 1917-18 and they list the address as Geneva, N.Y. I have also researched these magazines from several years prior to and after these dates and did not find any advertisements for any models of the IN-VU training rifle. I have assumed that this company went out of business at the end of 1918. It is unclear when or by whom the IN-VU training rifle was being produced in Rochester, N.Y. I would guess that this training rifle was produced for a short period of time after 1918. At the end of WWI the demand for training rifles declined so I doubt that they were produced in any quantity. This would make them a very scarce item.

Carson Long Military Institute

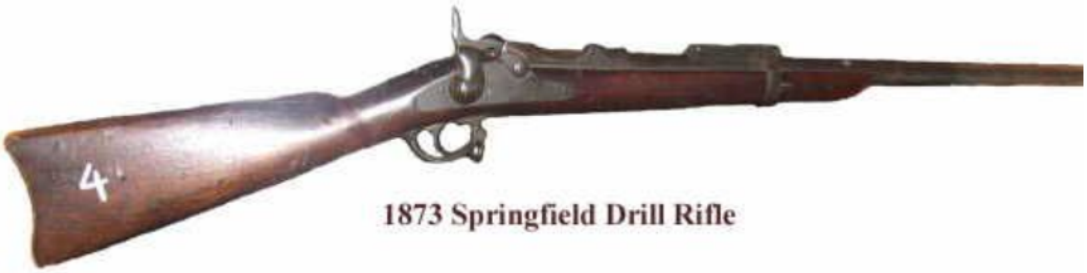
Carson Long Military Institute is a direct descendent of Bloomfield Academy which was founded in 1835. It is currently the oldest boarding school in the United States that still has military training. In 1914, Bloomfield Academy was purchased by Theodore K. Long and, in 1916, he renamed the school Carson Long Institute as a living memorial to his son William Carson Long. In 1919, military training was established at the school.

From 1919 to date, various types of drill or training rifles have been used by Carson Long Military Institute. The earliest type of drill rifle was the In-Vu model 25 “Rookie”. This was made entirely of wood and had the general profile of the 1903 Springfield rifle. It is short and light weight and would have been suitable for young Cadets. They still retain three of these in their museum. They have several photographs in their museum that show Cadets carrying drill rifles. The earliest dated photograph shows them carrying 1873 Trapdoor Springfield rifles. These rifles had the barrels cut off to 24" and the forearm shortened to about carbine length. Later photographs show the 1903 Springfield, the Pattern 17 Enfield, the M1 Garand, and the M16 rifles. None of these rifles had any external alteration but some were altered so that they could not be fired.

The following photographs are of rifles at the Carson Long Military Institute museum.

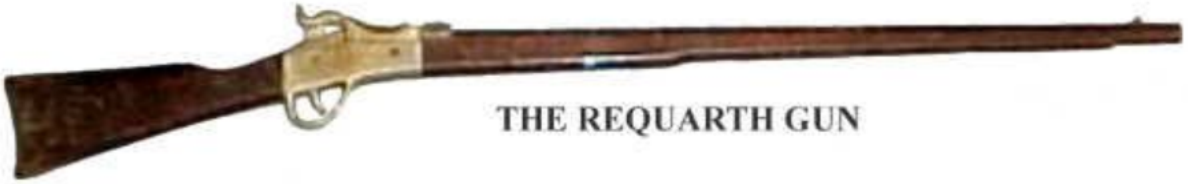


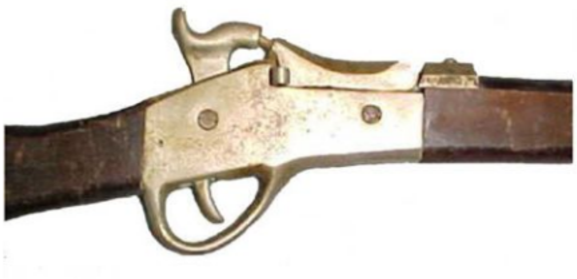
In-Vu No.25 “Rookie”

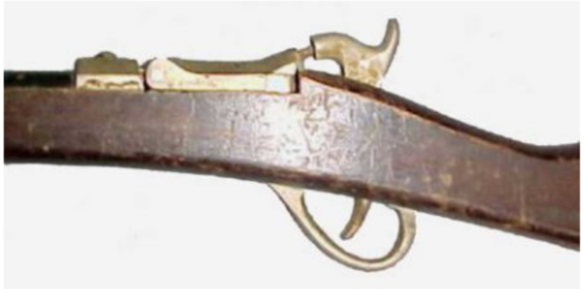


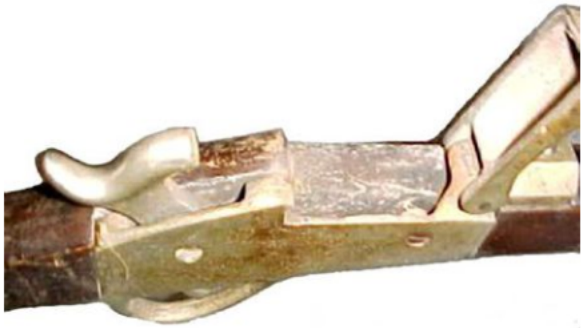
1873 Springfield Drill Rifle

Requarth Gun









These drill rifles were made by F.A. Requarth Co. in Dayton, Ohio. Frederick August Requardt was born in Germany in 1835. The family emigrated to the United States (Verona, Ohio) and Americanized their name to Requarth. In 1852 he left their Ohio farm and became an apprentice wood turner with a Dayton firm called Blanchard & Brown Co. In 1860 he opened his own wood turning business in Dayton where the business prospered. The Wright brothers bought spruce from him to build their first airplane. He guided the business for 50 years until his death in 1910. The company is still in the lumber business today. They suffered two setbacks in the early 1900's. In 1913 a huge flood damaged their business and in 1915 they suffered a catastrophic fire that destroyed their building.

They made a drill rifle that was patterned after the 1873 Springfield Rifle and sold to a variety of youth organizations and military schools. The exact dates of this production are unknown. However, it is possible to piece together an educated guess. Literature indicates that some of these drill rifles were made for the Boys Brigade. The Boys Brigade was a youth organization that promoted rifle drill, as well as other fun activities having Christian values. It was a worldwide organization that started in Scotland in 1883. The American branch of the Boys Brigade was started in 1887. The drill rifle production probably started shortly after that date and ended at the time of the flood in 1913. By the time they had rebuilt the business, the demand for drill rifles had started to diminished and by the end of WWI in 1918 the demand was practically nonexistent. I would speculate that they produced these drill rifles between 1887 and 1915.

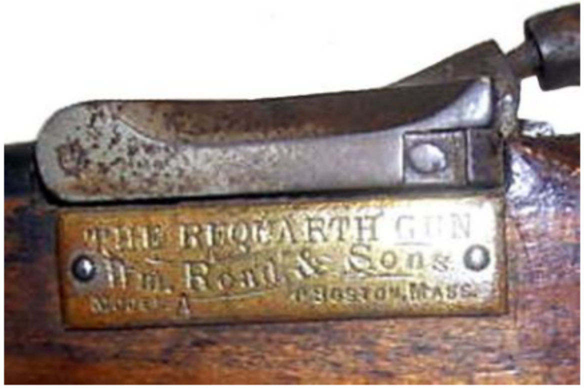
Some of the drill rifles had a brass plate on the left side of the stock. This plate always carries the name THE REQUARTH GUN and some also carry the name and address of the distributor. It has been determined that at least three different distributors sold these drill rifles. The following names have been found on this plate.

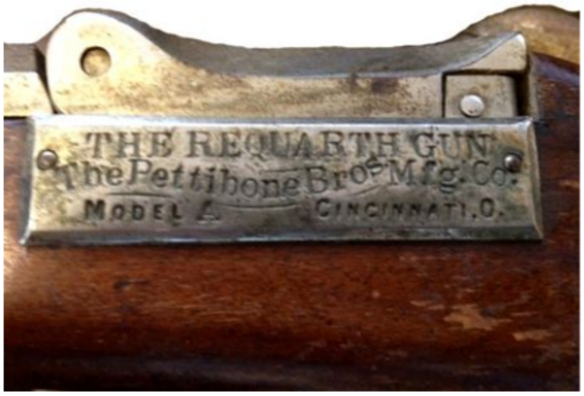
Cincinnati Regalia Co. Cincinnati, Ohio

Pettibone Mfg. Co. Cincinnati, Ohio

William Read & Sons, Boston Mass.

All of these companies sold sporting goods and/or military and band items. One specimen only lists The Requarth Gun and the Dayton, Ohio address. It is presumed that this specimen was sold directly from the factory. There are also specimens that have no plate or any other form of identification.

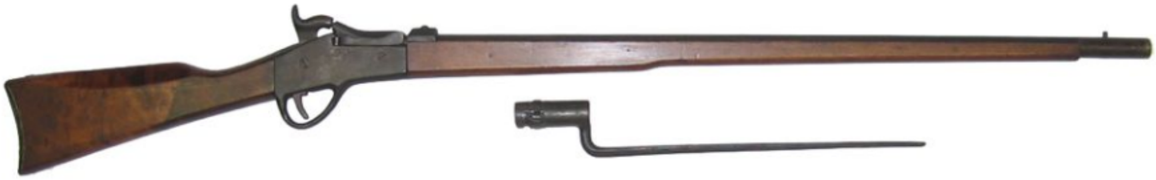


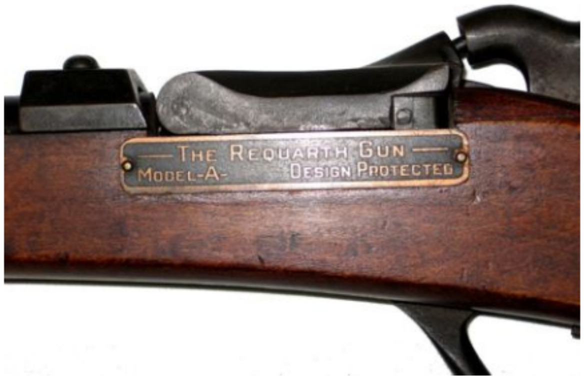


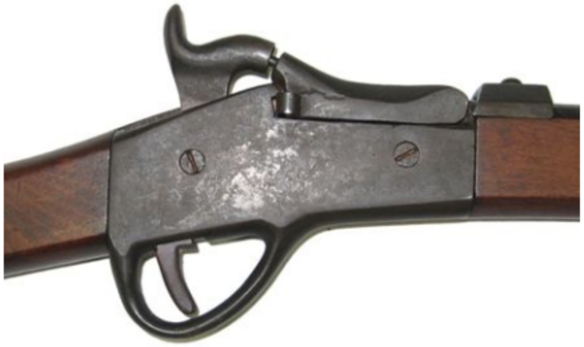
The Model A drill rifle was patterned after the 1873 Springfield in that it had a side hammer and a hinged breech block. It is 47 ½" long with a 33" barrel. This is one inch shorter than the 1873 Springfield Cadet Model. The lock mechanism is made of cast iron and is rather crude in design and function. The Model B is a simplified version of the same basic gun but is patterned after the earlier percussion muskets and has no moving parts. Both have a pin in the front sight location to carry a bayonet.

The stock appears to have been made of maple and stained or painted to look more like walnut. The barrel is an integral part of the stock and was stained or painted black. There is a short barrel section that extends past the end of the stock. This extension has a short metal sleeve over it. The butt plate is made from a thin piece of sheet metal. There is no evidence to suggest that they ever had any barrel bands or sling swivels. All of the metal parts appear to have been originally nickel plated but are now often found to be well browned from rust. The trigger mechanism was simple but not well designed or heat treated. Many of the surviving specimens have a trigger that no longer functions to catch or release the hammer.

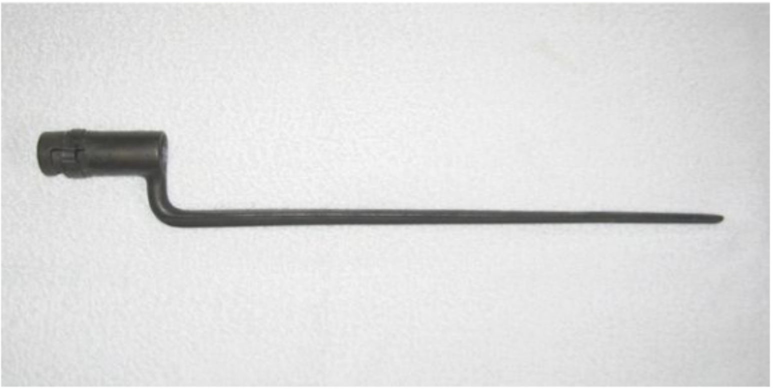
Recently another specimen of the Requarth Gun with an original bayonet has surfaced. This specimen has different information on the name plate on the left side of the stock. I suspect that this was a model that was sold directly from Requarth. The bayonet is made of cast iron and the blade is 13 1/2" long and the socket has a very simple retaining collar. There are no markings on the bayonet.



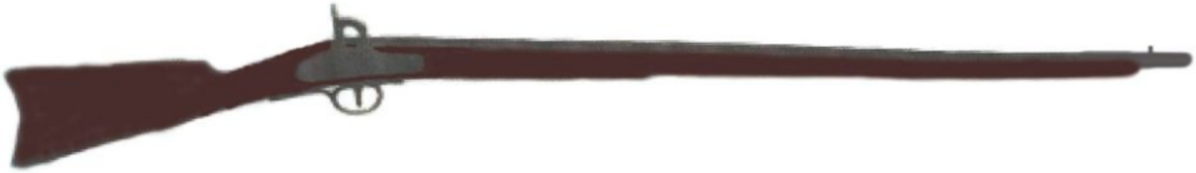




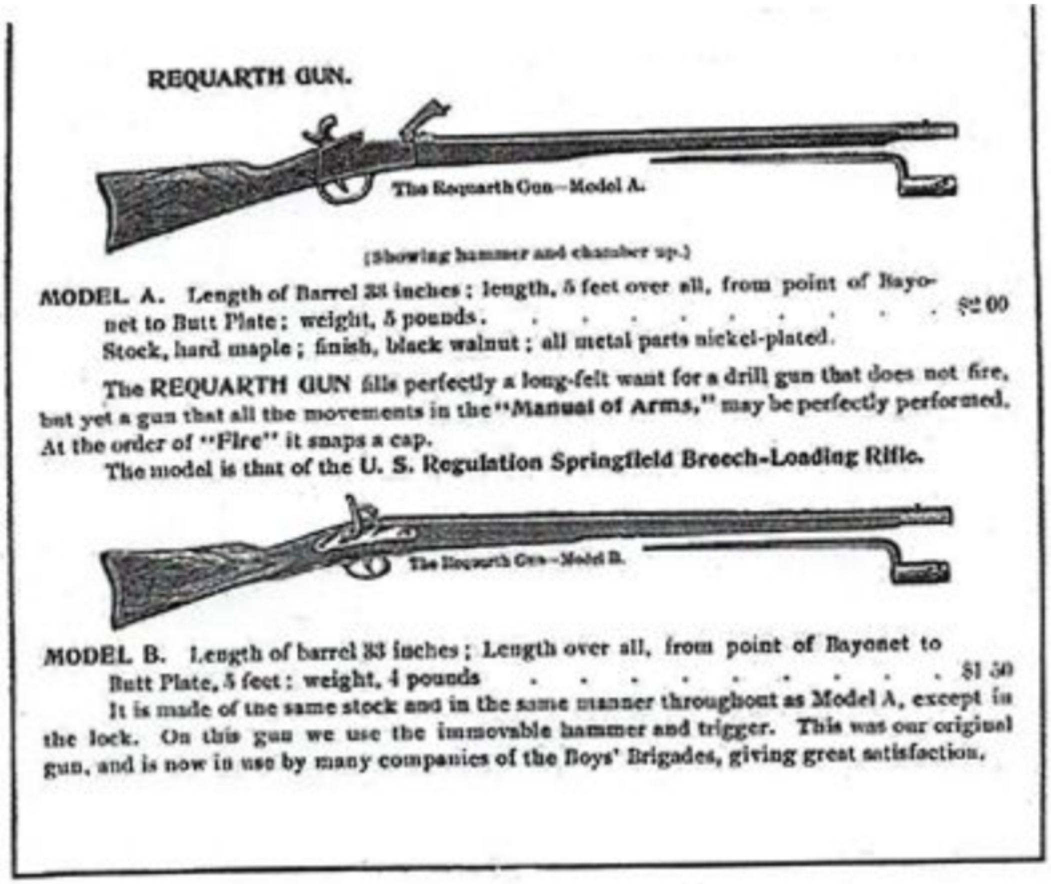
Requarth Bayonet



The Model B has the same barrel length and stock shape as the Model A. It is simplified and has a percussion lock with no moving parts. Both models are designed to carry a bayonet.



The following advertisement is from a late 1890's William Read & Sons catalog.



REQUARTH GUN.

The Requarth Gun—Model A.

(Showing hammer and chamber up.)

MODEL A. Length of Barrel 33 inches; length, 5 feet over all, from point of Bayonet to Butt Plate; weight, 5 pounds. $2 00

Stock, hard maple; finish, black walnut; all metal parts nickel-plated.

The **REQUARTH GUN** fills perfectly a long-felt want for a drill gun that does not fire, but yet a gun that all the movements in the "**Manual of Arms,**" may be perfectly performed. At the order of "**Fire**" it snaps a cap.

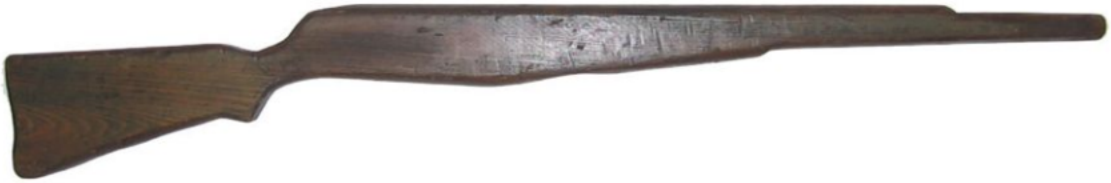
The model is that of the **U. S. Regulation Springfield Breech-Loading Rifle.**

The Requarth Gun—Model B.

MODEL B. Length of barrel 33 inches; Length over all, from point of Bayonet to Butt Plate, 5 feet; weight, 4 pounds $1 50

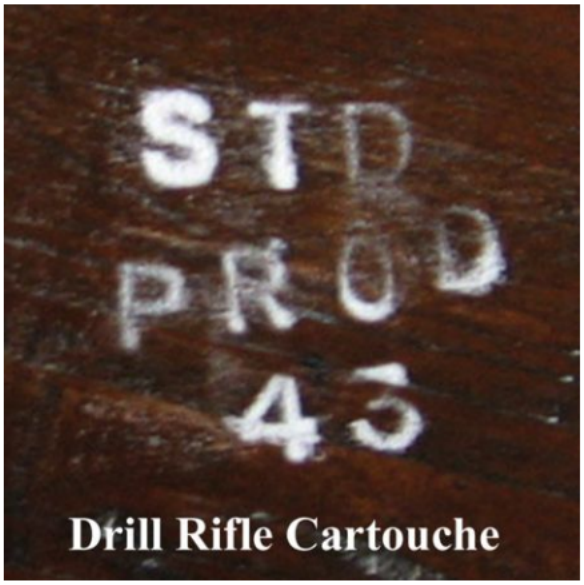
It is made of the same stock and in the same manner throughout as Model A, except in the lock. On this gun we use the immovable hammer and trigger. This was our original gun, and is now in use by many companies of the Boys' Brigades, giving great satisfaction.

Standard Products Co. - Drill Rifle

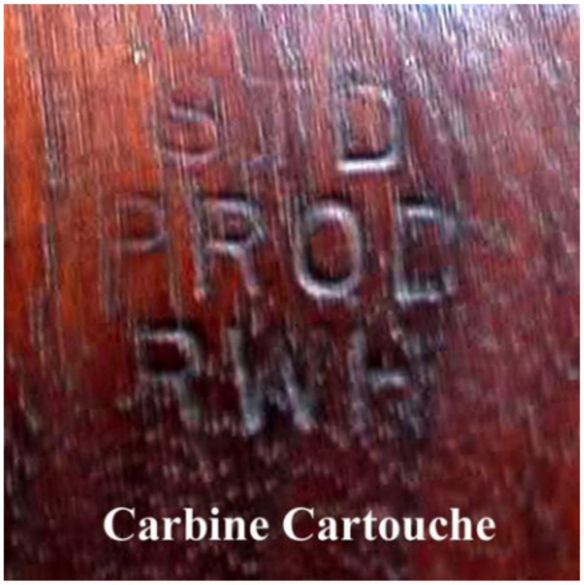


I have not been able to locate specific information relating to this rifle. This drill rifle is generally patterned after the M1 Garand rifle. It is the same length and thickness as the Garand but I obviously much lighter in weight. Having the same thickness is an unusual feature on this class of drill rifle as most of the all wooden drill rifles are much thinner.

The cartouche on this drill rifle is identical to the cartouche that appears on the M-1 carbines that were produced by the Standard Products Co. during the early years of WWII. In the1940s the Standard Products Co. was located in Port Clinton, Ohio. In1999 the Standard Products Co. was bought out by the Cooper Tire and Rubber Co. To date I have been unable to locate anyone who is associated with Standard Products Co. that has any information relating to this drill rifle.



Drill Rifle Cartouche



Carbine Cartouche

The only difference in the cartouche is that the number 43 is used under the Standard Products initials in place of the inspector’s initials. Due to the fact that this is made entirely of wood and has no moving parts, it is not surprising that there was no need for a formal inspection. This also may be an indication that they were not produced under a government contract. It is highly probable that the 43 indicates the year 1943. I suspect the cartouche was used for no other reason than to be a form of identification.

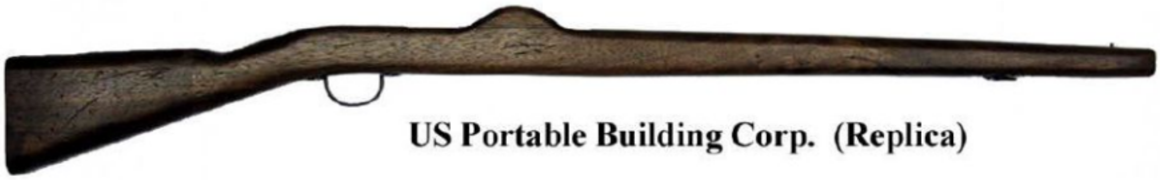
Although there is little question that these drill rifles were produced by the Standard Products Co., I have no idea of how many or for whom they were produced.

Peggy Debien, Curator of the Ottawa County Historical Museum which is located in Port Clinton, Ohio, has provided the following information.

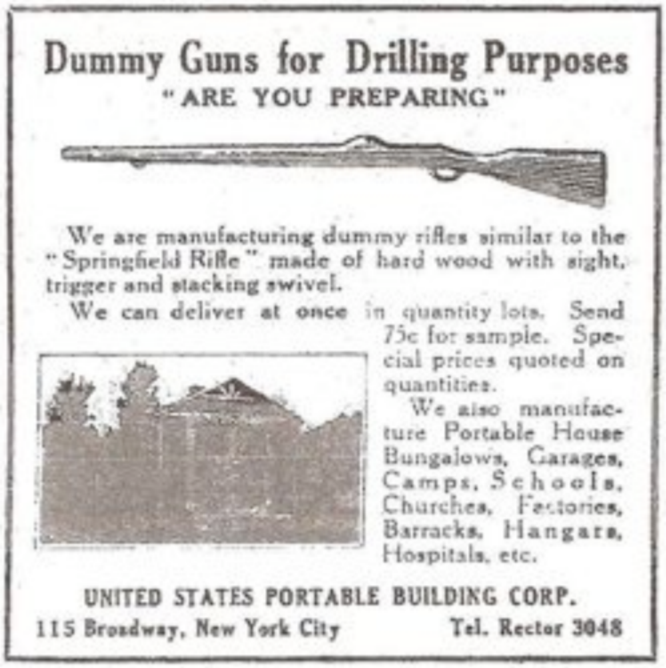
The museum has no information that refers to a wooden drill rifle that was produced by the Standard Products Co. She consulted with local history buffs, including the son of a supervisor at Standard Products. None of these people had any knowledge of a wooden drill rifle. They did indicate that the wooden stocks which were made for the M-1 carbine were not produced in the Port Clinton factory.

U.S. Portable Building Corp.

No specimen found to date. The photograph is of an accurate replica that was developed from the advertisement.



US Portable Building Corp. (Replica)



Dummy Guns for Drilling Purposes

"ARE YOU PREPARING"

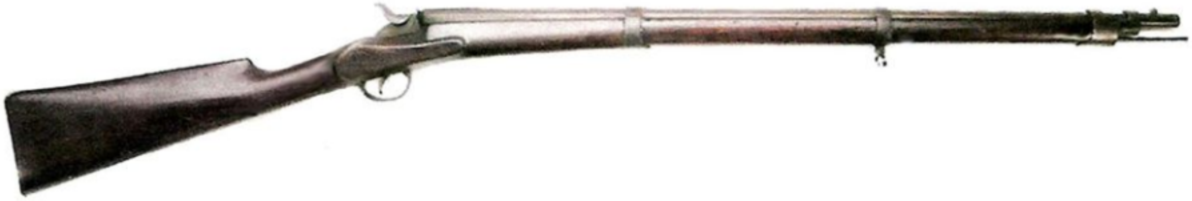
We are manufacturing dummy rifles similar to the "Springfield Rifle" made of hard wood with sight, trigger and stacking swivel.

We can deliver at once in quantity lots. Send 75c for sample. Special prices quoted on quantities.

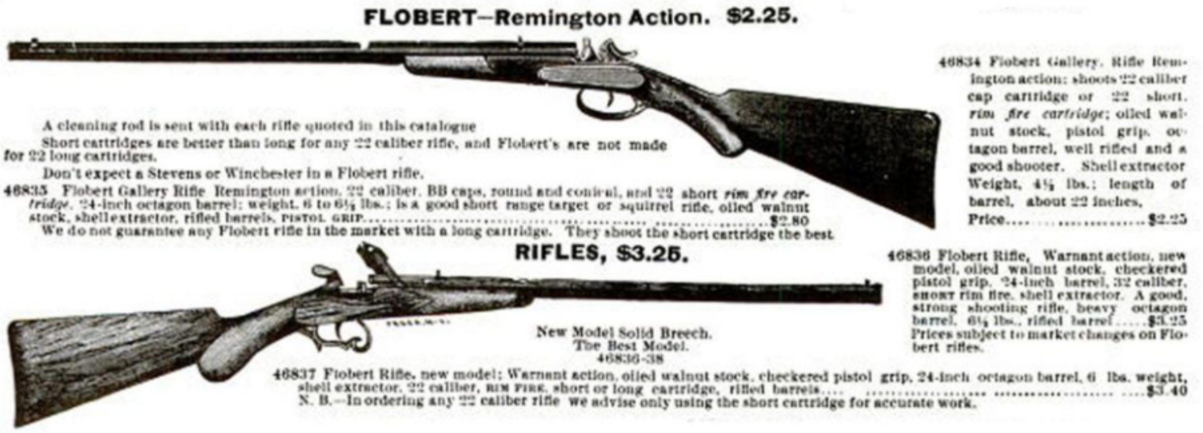
We also manufacture Portable House Bungalows, Garages, Camps, Schools, Churches, Factories, Barracks, Hangars, Hospitals, etc.

UNITED STATES PORTABLE BUILDING CORP.
115 Broadway, New York City Tel. Rector 3048

“Remington” Flobert



In 1846 a Frenchman by the name of Bernard Houllier patented a self-contained cartridge which was basically a percussion cap with a small ball in the cup. He improved the design by using a folded rim which contained the detonating powder. This cartridge is often incorrectly referred to as the Flobert cartridge. Louis Flobert later produced the first small rifles and pistols using this cartridge but he had no part in developing the cartridge. His first design used the broad face of the hammer and the pressure from the main spring to support the rim of the BB cap and the 22 RF short cartridge. There was no permanent closure and it was not sufficiently strong to support the pressure from the later 22 RF line of cartridges. The pictures below are of the two later Flobert models.



FLOBERT—Remington Action. $2.25.

A cleaning rod is sent with each rifle quoted in this catalogue

Short cartridges are better than long for any 22 caliber rifle, and Flobert's are not made for 22 long cartridges.

Don't expect a Stevens or Winchester in a Flobert rifle.

46835 Flobert Gallery Rifle Remington action, 22 caliber, BB caps, round and conical, and 22 short *rim fire cartridge*, 24-inch octagon barrel; weight, 6 to 6½ lbs.; is a good short range target or squirrel rifle, oiled walnut stock, shellextractor, rifled barrels, PISTOL GRIP.......$2.80

We do not guarantee any Flobert rifle in the market with a long cartridge. They shoot the short cartridge the best

46834 Flobert Gallery. Rifle Remington action: shoots 22 caliber cap cartridge or 22 short. *rim fire cartridge*; oiled walnut stock, pistol grip, octagon barrel, well rifled and a good shooter. Shell extractor Weight, 4½ lbs.; length of barrel, about 22 inches.
Price.......$2.25

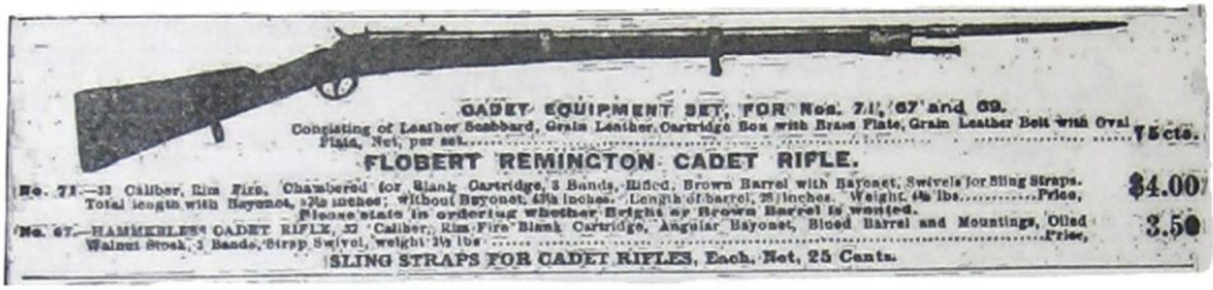
RIFLES, $3.25.

New Model Solid Breech.
The Best Model.
46836-38

46836 Flobert Rifle, Warnant action, new model, oiled walnut stock, checkered pistol grip, 24-inch barrel, 32 caliber, SHORT rim fire, shell extractor. A good, strong shooting rifle, heavy octagon barrel, 6½ lbs., rifled barrel.....$3.25
Prices subject to market changes on Flobert rifles.

46837 Flobert Rifle, new model; Warnant action, oiled walnut stock, checkered pistol grip, 24-inch octagon barrel, 6 lbs. weight, shell extractor, 22 caliber, RIM FIRE, short or long cartridge, rifled barrels.......$3.40
N. B.—In ordering any 22 caliber rifle we advise only using the short cartridge for accurate work.

In 1871 E. C. Meacham established a sporting goods business that specialized in selling inexpensive imported firearms. By the 1880's the company also sold a better grade of American made firearms. The “Remington Flobert” rifles were promoted as a cadet rifle and sold by the E.C. Meacham Arms Co and Francis Bannerman. They were sold from about 1892 through the start of WWI. The catalog advertisements are from the 1893 Meaucham catalog and the 1907 Bannerman catalog. The text and pricing are very similar in the two catalogs. The 1907 Bannerman catalog indicates that the Flobert cadet rifles were made in Europe (probably Belgium) and used the Remington Flobert action. The earlier Meacham Arm catalog identifies them as Remington Flobert cadet rifles.



CADET EQUIPMENT SET, FOR Nos. 71, 67 and 69.
Consisting of Leather Scabbard, Grain Leather Cartridge Box with Brass Plate, Grain Leather Belt with Oval Plate, Net, per set..75 cts.

FLOBERT REMINGTON CADET RIFLE.

No. 71.—32 Caliber, Rim Fire, Chambered for Blank Cartridge, 3 Bands, Rifled, Brown Barrel with Bayonet, Swivels for Sling Straps. Total length with Bayonet, 52½ inches; without Bayonet, 43½ inches. Length of barrel, 28 inches. Weight 4¾ lbs............Price, $4.00
Please state in ordering whether Bright or Brown Barrel is wanted.

No. 67.—HAMMERLESS CADET RIFLE, 32 Caliber, Rim Fire Blank Cartridge, Angular Bayonet, Blued Barrel and Mountings, Oiled Walnut Stock, 3 Bands, Strap Swivel, weight 3½ lbs ....Price, 3.50

SLING STRAPS FOR CADET RIFLES, Each, Net, 25 Cents.

Meacham Arms Co. Advertisement

1893 Meacham Arms Co. Catalog text

CADET EQUIPMENT SET, FOR Nos.71, 67 and 69
Consisting of Leather Scabbard, Grain Leather Cartridge Box with Brass Plate, Grain Leather Belt with Oval Plate, Set, per set..**75 cts.**

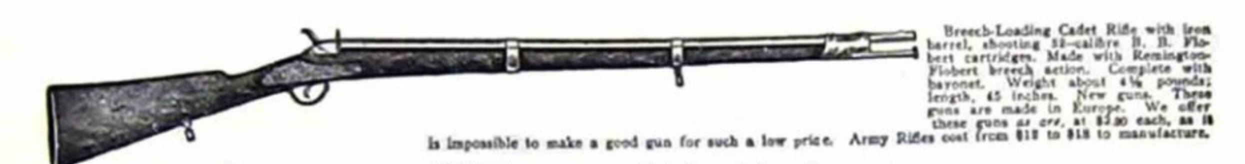
FLOBERT REMINGTON CADET RIFLE

No. 71 - 32 Caliber, Rim Fire Chambered for Blank Cartridges, 3 Bands, Rifled, Brown Barrel with Bayonet, Swivels for Sling Straps. Total Length with Bayonet, 52 1/2 Inches, without Bayonet 43 1/2 Inches, Length of Barrel 28 Inches, Weight 4 3/4 Lbs.....Price $4.00

Please state in ordering whether Bright or Brown Barrel is wanted.

No. 67 - HAMMERLESS CADET RIFLE, 32 Caliber, Rim Fire Blank Cartridge, Angular Bayonet,Blued Barrel and Mountings, Oiled Walnut Stock, 3 Bands, Strap Swivel, Weight 3 1/2 Lbs.....Price 3.50

SLING STRAPS FOR CADET RIFLES, Each, Net, 25 Cents



Breech-Loading Cadet Rifle with iron barrel, shooting 32-calibre B. B. Flobert cartridges. Made with Remington-Flobert breech action. Complete with bayonet. Weight about 4½ pounds; length, 45 inches. New guns. These guns are made in Europe. We offer these guns as are, at $3.90 each, as it is impossible to make a good gun for such a low price. Army Rifles cost from $12 to $18 to manufacture.

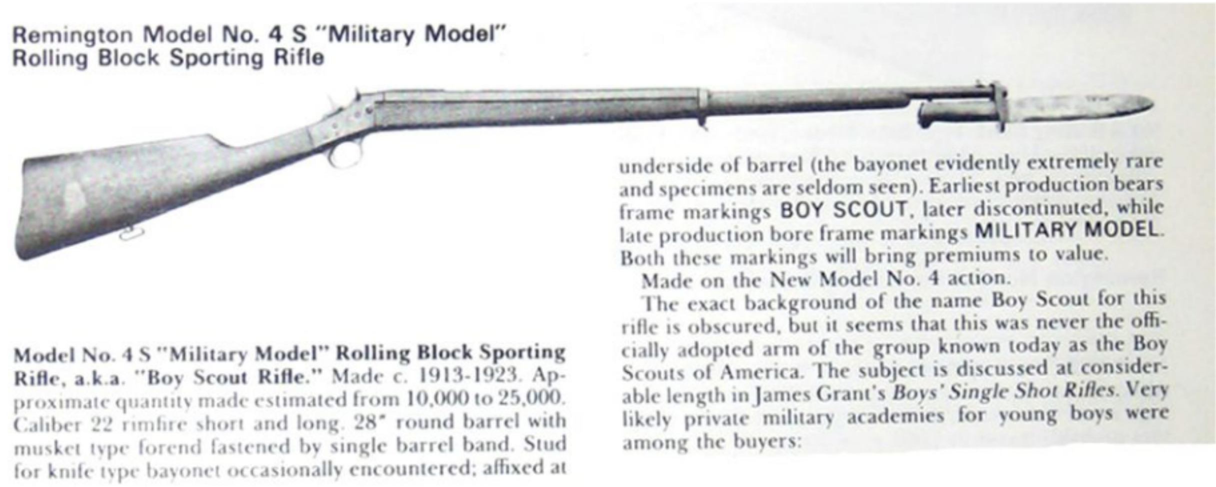
1907 Bannerman Catalog Advertisement

1907 Bannerman catalog text

Cadet Rifles for Boys Brigades and Military Schools

Breech Loading Cadet Rifle with iron barrel, shooting 32-caliber B.B. Flobert cartridges. Made with Remington Flobert breech action. Complete with bayonet. Weight about 4 1/2 pounds, length 45 inches. New guns. These guns are made in Europe. We offer these gun as are, at $3.90 each, as it is impossible to make a good gun for such a low price. Army rifles cost from $12 to $18 to manufacture.

Remington Arms Co. never had any connection with Flobert and these so called "Remington actions" were very different from the typical Remington Rolling Block action. From 1913-1923 Remington produced a #4 S model which had a full length stock and the same general appearance as the Remington Flobert model. During the first two years of production this model was called the Boy Scout Model but in 1915 the name was changed to the Military Model. These Remington model 4 S rifles were generally sold as cadet drill or training rifles due to their full stock design. These were a much higher grade of firearm and cost substantially more. It seems unlikely that they were commonly used as a drill rifle for cadet groups.



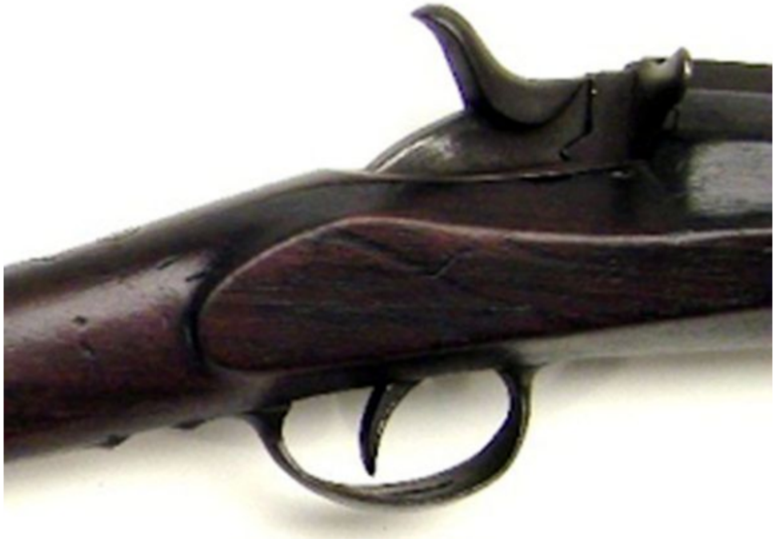
Remington Model No. 4 S "Military Model" Rolling Block Sporting Rifle

Model No. 4 S "Military Model" Rolling Block Sporting Rifle, a.k.a. "Boy Scout Rifle." Made c. 1913-1923. Approximate quantity made estimated from 10,000 to 25,000. Caliber 22 rimfire short and long. 28" round barrel with musket type forend fastened by single barrel band. Stud for knife type bayonet occasionally encountered; affixed at underside of barrel (the bayonet evidently extremely rare and specimens are seldom seen). Earliest production bears frame markings **BOY SCOUT**, later discontinued, while late production bore frame markings **MILITARY MODEL**. Both these markings will bring premiums to value.

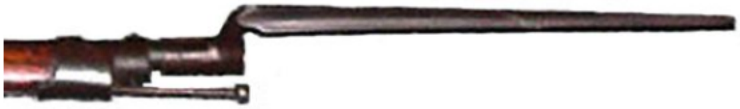
Made on the New Model No. 4 action.

The exact background of the name Boy Scout for this rifle is obscured, but it seems that this was never the officially adopted arm of the group known today as the Boy Scouts of America. The subject is discussed at considerable length in James Grant's *Boys' Single Shot Rifles*. Very likely private military academies for young boys were among the buyers:

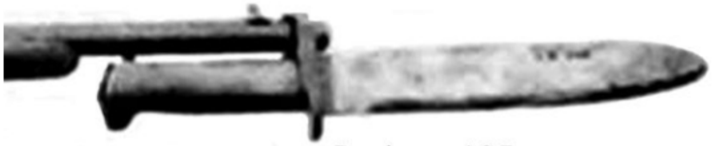
The Folbert "Remington Action" model used a rotating breech block that was very different from the action produced by the Remington Arms Co. It was substantially thinner, lighter in weight and rotated on a much smaller pin. This action was only strong enough for small rim fire cartridges while the Remington design could withstand much greater pressures.



A metal triangular socket bayonet was available on the Flobert rifle with and the Remington model used a short blade bayonet. At this time these bayonets have become extremely rare.



Flobert Bayonet



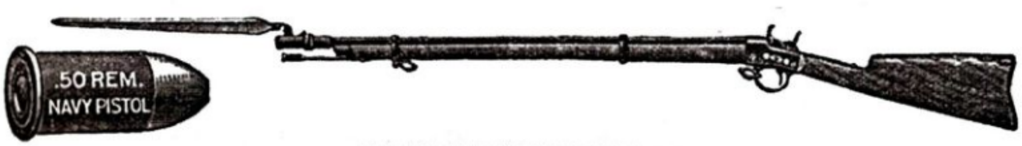
Remington 4 S Bayonet

It appears that the Mecham Arm Co. started importing these cadet rifles in 1892, as this was about the time that the American units of the Boys Brigade were getting started. The Boys Brigade grew rapidly, providing a strong demand for an inexpensive drill rifle. As the demand grew, Bannerman must have decided to try to get a part of the market. At this time it is unknown when these rifles first appeared in the Bannerman catalog, but they are not shown in the 1900 Bannerman catalog and they do appear in the 1907 catalog. Without question, all of these cadet rifles came from the same source in Europe.

It seems that functional firearms of this type would have been undesirable for groups like the Boys Brigade. However, due to their low price they may have been deactivated after purchase.

Remington Cadet Rifle

There were a number of sporting goods dealers who sold altered Remington rolling block rifles as Cadet Rifles. Usually the only modification of these rifles was to shorten the barrels. This rifle is unique as it has a small action and was made in some quantity exclusively for the M. Hartley Co. Marcellus Hartley owned the Remington Arms Co. It is unknown precisely when production of this Cadet rifle started but it was certainly after 1888 when Hartley acquired E. Remington and Sons. This rifle appears in the 1903-4 M. Hartley Co. catalog. It is interesting to note that in 1913 the Remington Arms Co started producing the # 4 S model which is nearly identical to this early model. They continued to produce the # 4 S until 1923. The # 4 S was chambered for the 22 RF series of cartridges.

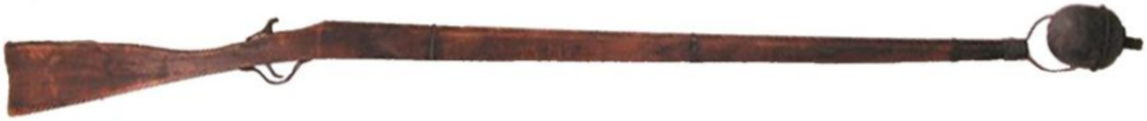


REMINGTON CADET RIFLE No. 205.

No. 205. Remington Cadet Rifle, 50 Cal., Central Fire Short **Cartridge,** Brown Finish, perfectly proportioned, Angular Bayonet, for boys 10 to 20 years, length 42 ½ inches, weight, 6 lbs. **$6 00**

The best moderate price cadet rifle ever offered. Made from obsolete material by the Remington Arms Co. especially for us. Entirely new, serviceable and attractive. 5,000 of these arms now in use by the best Military Schools and Cadet Corps.

Rifle Form Parade Torch



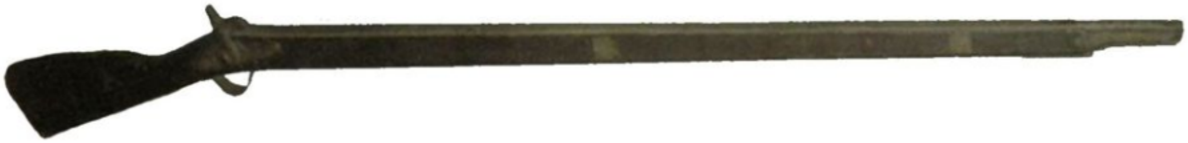
Various forms of Parade Torches were in use during the 1860's. They were used to light political rallies during the evening hours. The Rifle Form Parade Torch was a rifle shaped handle for a torch. They were all made from a one inch thick board and were roughly 5 feet long. They usually had a sheet metal trigger guard, sheet metal barrel bands and some form of a hammer. Although they were much longer, they were made to represent a military musket. A bulbous shaped torch fitted on the muzzle of the barrel. There was no consistent shape or length but all have similar characteristics.

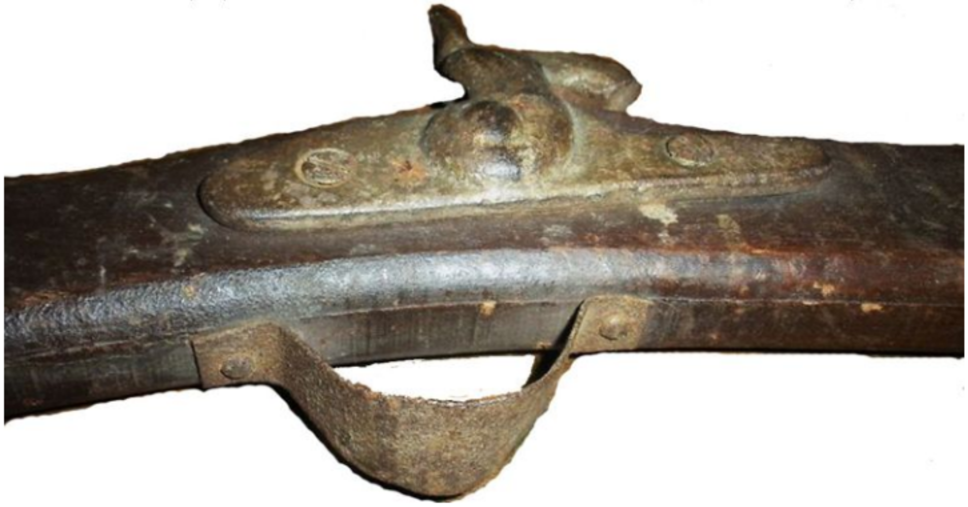
It is probable that the majority of these Rifle Form Torches were made and used in Washington, DC, although some were undoubtedly used in the other eastern cities. These are very scarce and are a valuable relic of the Civil War era.

Further information may be found in a study titled “Political Campaign Torches” by Herbert R. Collins. (Smithsonian Institute, 1964)

RIFLE FORM PARADE TORCH HANDLE

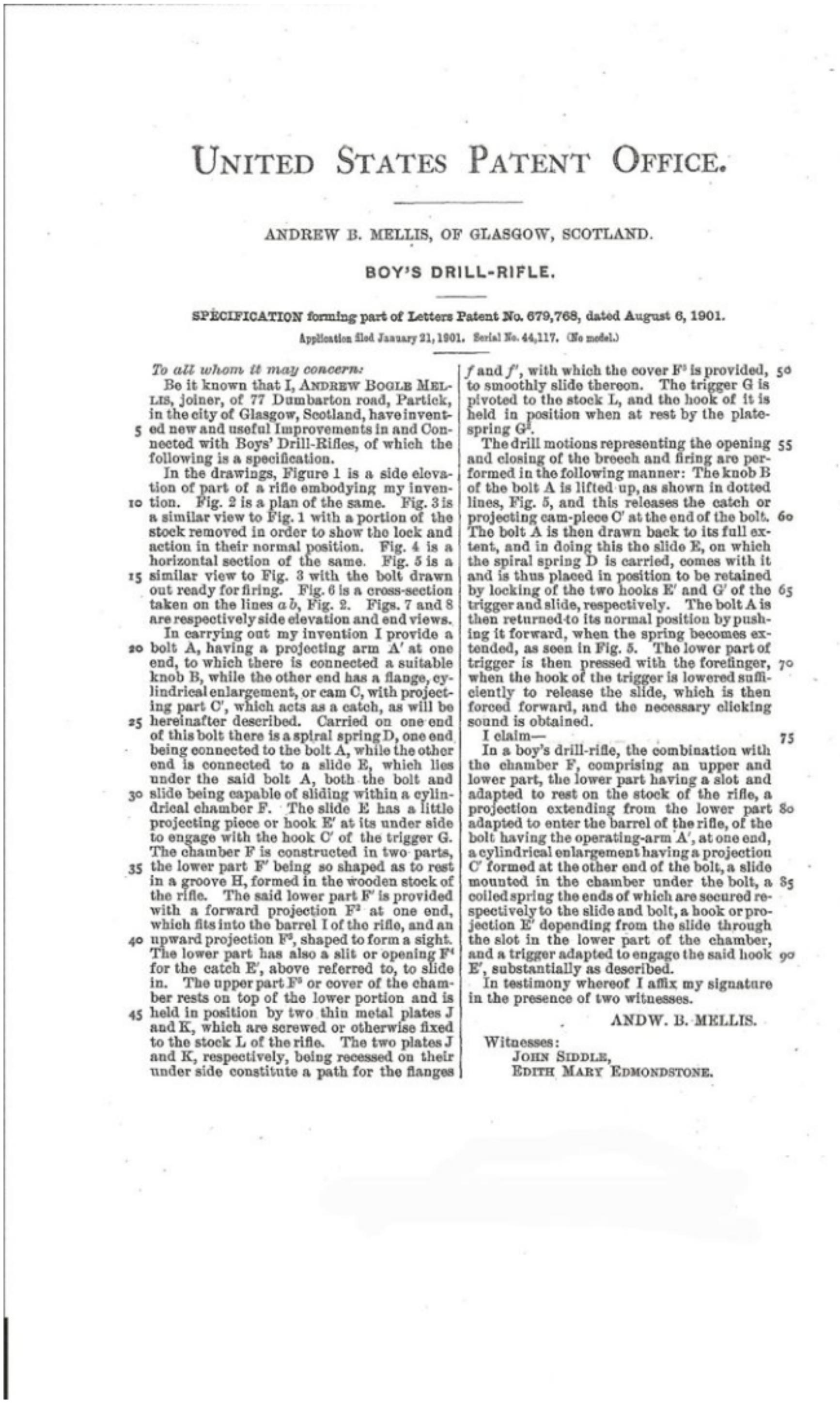
This is another musket shaped handle for a parade torch. The one piece cast iron lock on this piece is an unusual detail.





Mellis Boys Drill Rifle

The following patent documents are the only known information relating to this drill rifle. The patent application is dated January 1, 1901 and patent # 679,768 was granted on August 6, 1901. I is unknown if any of these drill rifles were ever produced.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW B. MELLIS, OF GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.

BOY'S DRILL-RIFLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 679,768, dated August 6, 1901.

Application filed January 21, 1901. Serial No. 44,117. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW BOGLE MELLIS, joiner, of 77 Dumbarton road, Partick, in the city of Glasgow, Scotland, have invented new and useful Improvements in and Connected with Boys' Drill-Rifles, of which the following is a specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of part of a rifle embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same. Fig. 3 is a similar view to Fig. 1 with a portion of the stock removed in order to show the lock and action in their normal position. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of the same. Fig. 5 is a similar view to Fig. 3 with the bolt drawn out ready for firing. Fig. 6 is a cross-section taken on the lines *a b*, Fig. 2. Figs. 7 and 8 are respectively side elevation and end views.

In carrying out my invention I provide a bolt A, having a projecting arm A′ at one end, to which there is connected a suitable knob B, while the other end has a flange, cylindrical enlargement, or cam C, with projecting part C′, which acts as a catch, as will be hereinafter described. Carried on one end of this bolt there is a spiral spring D, one end being connected to the bolt A, while the other end is connected to a slide E, which lies under the said bolt A, both the bolt and slide being capable of sliding within a cylindrical chamber F. The slide E has a little projecting piece or hook E′ at its under side to engage with the hook C′ of the trigger G. The chamber F is constructed in two parts, the lower part F′ being so shaped as to rest in a groove H, formed in the wooden stock of the rifle. The said lower part F′ is provided with a forward projection F^2 at one end, which fits into the barrel I of the rifle, and an upward projection F^3, shaped to form a sight. The lower part has also a slit or opening F^4 for the catch E′, above referred to, to slide in. The upper part F^5 or cover of the chamber rests on top of the lower portion and is held in position by two thin metal plates J and K, which are screwed or otherwise fixed to the stock L of the rifle. The two plates J and K, respectively, being recessed on their under side constitute a path for the flanges *f* and *f′*, with which the cover F^5 is provided, to smoothly slide thereon. The trigger G is pivoted to the stock L, and the hook of it is held in position when at rest by the plate-spring G^2.

The drill motions representing the opening and closing of the breech and firing are performed in the following manner: The knob B of the bolt A is lifted up, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 5, and this releases the catch or projecting cam-piece C′ at the end of the bolt. The bolt A is then drawn back to its full extent, and in doing this the slide E, on which the spiral spring D is carried, comes with it and is thus placed in position to be retained by locking of the two hooks E′ and G′ of the trigger and slide, respectively. The bolt A is then returned to its normal position by pushing it forward, when the spring becomes extended, as seen in Fig. 5. The lower part of trigger is then pressed with the forefinger, when the hook of the trigger is lowered sufficiently to release the slide, which is then forced forward, and the necessary clicking sound is obtained.

I claim—

In a boy's drill-rifle, the combination with the chamber F, comprising an upper and lower part, the lower part having a slot and adapted to rest on the stock of the rifle, a projection extending from the lower part adapted to enter the barrel of the rifle, of the bolt having the operating-arm A′, at one end, a cylindrical enlargement having a projection C′ formed at the other end of the bolt, a slide mounted in the chamber under the bolt, a coiled spring the ends of which are secured respectively to the slide and bolt, a hook or projection E′ depending from the slide through the slot in the lower part of the chamber, and a trigger adapted to engage the said hook E′, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ANDW. B. MELLIS.

Witnesses:
JOHN SIDDLE,
EDITH MARY EDMONDSTONE.

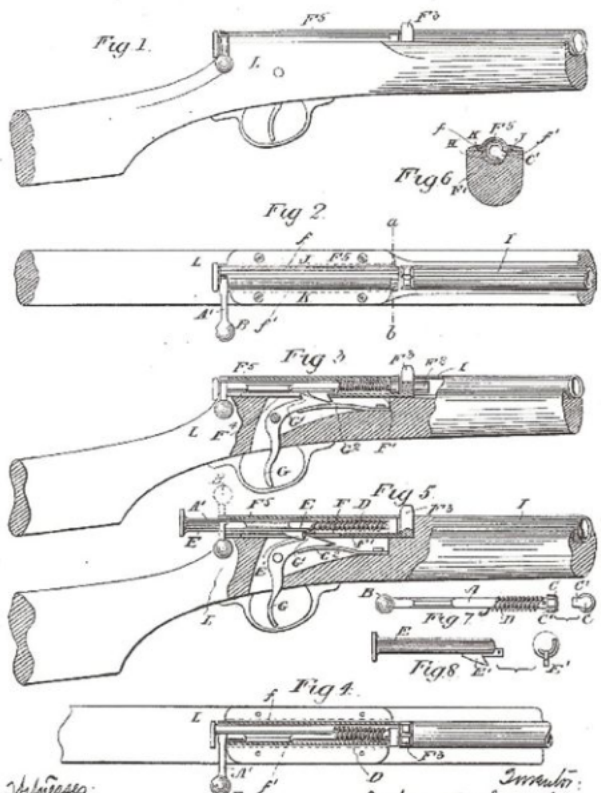
No. 679,768. Patented Aug. 6, 1901.

A. B. MELLIS.

BOY'S DRILL RIFLE.

(Application filed Jan. 21, 1901.)

(No Model.)

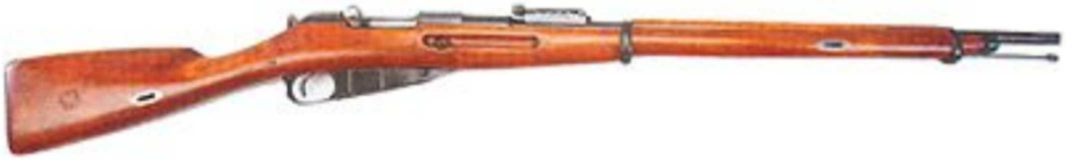


Witnesses:
H. G. Manning.
Jno. R. Adams

Inventor:
Andrew Bogle Mellis:
By Knight Bros
attys.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D.C.

Russian Mosin Nagant Cadet Training Rifle



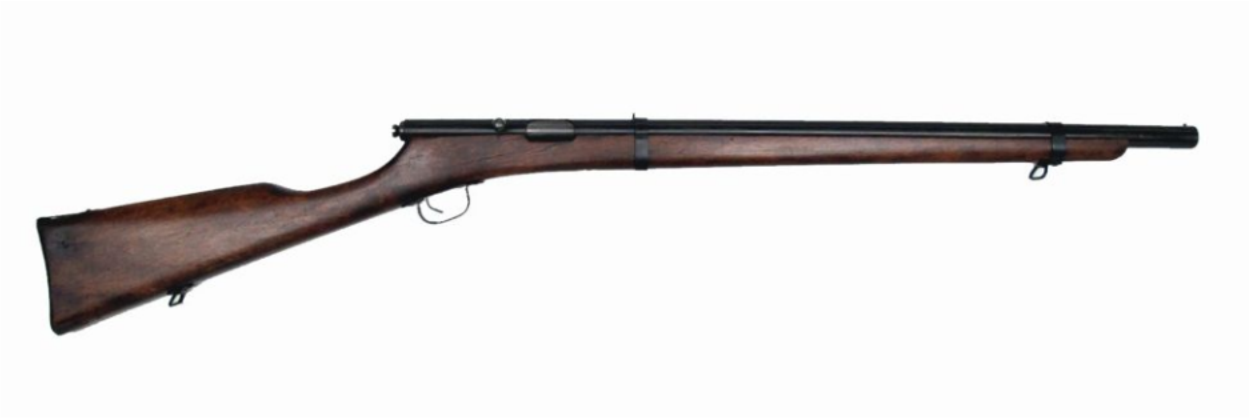
The following information was provided by the Remington Company Historian.

“Thank you for contacting Remington. I received your letter of inquiry about Mosin Nagant rifles that were converted to Cadet Training Rifles. After WWI Remington modified post-war surplus into non-firing training rifles since the 1903 Springfield rifles were in short supply. The barrels were cut to the dimensions of the US Model 1903 Springfield rifle. These rifles are commonly found with a month/year date code but no serial number. The Cadet rifle was sold to private military institutions. Unfortunately there is no production information about these models”.

The original barrel length of the Model 91 Mosin Nagant was 31.6 inches and the 1903 Springfield barrel length was 24 inches. This results in 7.6 inches being removed from the barrel. The forend of the stock was also shortened. The barrels on these Cadet Trainers had no front sight. It is unknown what other modifications that Remington used to prevent these rifles from being fired. These models had a functional bolt so I suspect that the firing pin was shortened.

During this same time period Bannerman sold a similar modification. These can be identified by the fact that they carry a serial number as they were converted Russian military rifles. The front barrel band on the Bannerman model may be from a different military firearm.

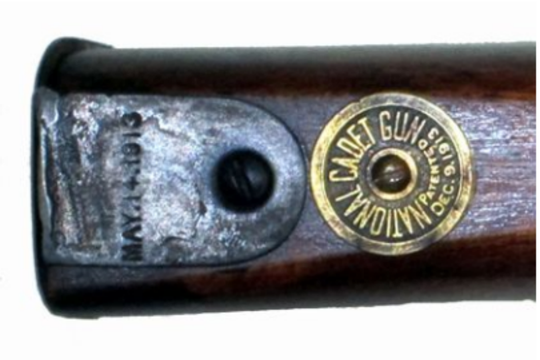
National Cadet Gun



I have not been able to locate any information relating to this drill rifle other than the Patent information that is enclosed. This gun is unique in many ways. It was designed to fire 22 rim fire blank cartridges and would not chamber a normal bulleted round. The mechanism is rather complex, costly and not very effective.

I have no idea of the cost of this gun as no advertisements have been located. It would seem that the cost would have been substantial to gain the sound of a salute. There are three different markings on the gun. Two of them are located on the top of the stock near the butt plate. One is a brass disc that contains the name and patent date and the second is the May 14, 1913 date stamped into the butt plate tang. The Patent was applied for in June of 1912. The May 14, 1913 date must have been the production date of the gun. The third marking is a number 9 in the center of the metal butt plate. I rather suspect that this number is a serial number.

The stock appears to be maple and is well finished. The barrel is made of sheet metal, rolled and brazed into a tube. All of the metal parts were blued rather than painted. On the whole this drill rifle is better fit and finished than the general run of drill rifles.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD L. TIFFANY AND FREDRICK S. LOOMIS, OF HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

CADET GUN AND RIFLE.

1,080,939. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Dec. 9, 1913.**

Application filed June 5, 1912. Serial No. 701,940.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, Edward L. Tiffany and Fredrick S. Loomis, citizens of the United States, and residents of the city of Hoboken, county of Hudson, State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cadet Guns and Rifles, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in cadet guns or rifles in which a cylindrical gun chamber is so constructed that only blank cartridges may be inserted into its bore, and also to prevent pieces of extracted bullets or pieces of a cartridge torn off by the force of the powder when the gun is discharged—to be carried through the barrel, and the object of our invention is to construct a gun or rifle for cadets, for use on stages, etc., which may be discharged for effect of detonation only, without danger that a stray missile may imperil the safety of bystanders. We attain this object by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1— is a partial sectional side elevation of a gun, showing the arrangements of parts in our invention. Fig. 2— is a longitudinal section of a portion of a gun showing the parts of the invention as arranged in the barrel of same. Fig. 3— is a cross section on line 3, 3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4— is a side elevation of a gun chamber. Fig. 5— is a front elevation of same. Fig. 6— is a side elevation of a modification of the gun chamber shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 7— is a front elevation of same.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The gun A has a barrel B, in which is inserted a cylindrical gun chamber D fastened therein by a screw J. From one end M of said gun chamber D a longitudinal bore E, similar in length and diameter to a blank cartridge, extends inwardly to a point F and thence angularly toward the other end N. Near said end N a stationary metal block H is secured to the inside of the gun barrel B to prevent any missile carried out of the gun chamber D by the force of the powder, from passing through the gun barrel B. A modification of said gun chamber D is shown in Figs. 6 and 7 where a longitudinal bore E similar in size to a blank cartridge extends to a smaller sized bore F. The connection of a longitudinal bore similar in size to a blank cartridge with a smaller sized bore or with an angular one will prevent an insertion of a cartridge charged with a bullet.

The gun chamber D, constituting a short cylinder of the same diameter as the gun barrel B, is provided with a straight and an angular bore E and F it is inserted into the gun barrel B and fastened therein by a screw J. Said gun barrel B may be a thin tube of steel or it may be stamped out of sheet metal, bent and welded to form a permanent union steel tubing. The arrangement of having a gun chamber fastened into a tube will greatly reduce the cost of manufacturing a gun, as the barrels of the guns now used by cadets have to be bored the whole length. We prefer to carry out this feature of our invention in the manner shown in Fig. 2 where there will be seen a gun-chamber (D) secured to the barrel (B) supported by the stock L. The former is provided with a blank cartridge (G). The missile catching block H is placed near the front of said gun chamber and the firing pin C in back of the gun chamber is ready to ignite the same, when pulling the trigger K.

What we claim as our invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A cadet gun having a shoulder stock, a firing means and a tubular barrel, in combination with a removable cartridge holding member incapable of receiving a ball cartridge interposed between said firing means and said barrel, said member having a laterally inclined passage-way communicating with the interior of said tubular barrel, an obstructing member in the barrel in advance of the cartridge holding member, with provision for the passage of gases as shown and described.

New York, N. Y. May 31st 1912.

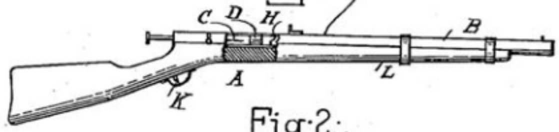
EDWARD L. TIFFANY.
FREDRICK S. LOOMIS.

Witnesses:
Josephine L. Tiffany,
Cecilia C. Tschinkel.

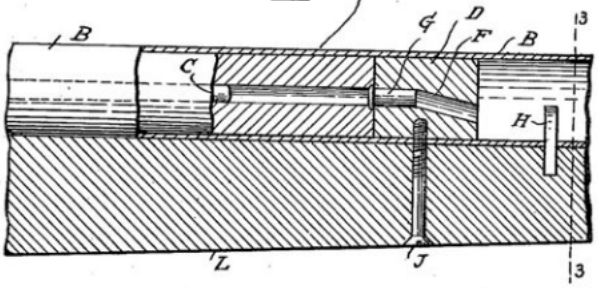
E. L. TIFFANY & F. S. LOOMIS.
CADET GUN AND RIFLE.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 5, 1912.

1,080,939. Patented Dec. 9, 1913.

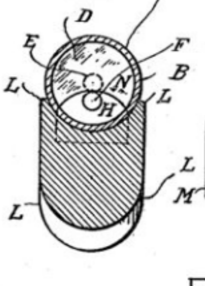
Fig·1·

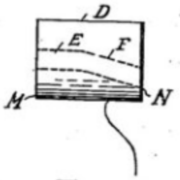


Fig·2·

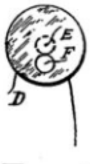


Fig·3·

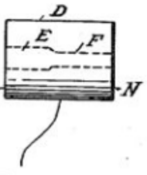




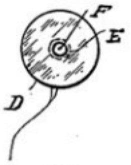
Fig·4·



Fig·5·



Fig·6·



Fig·7·

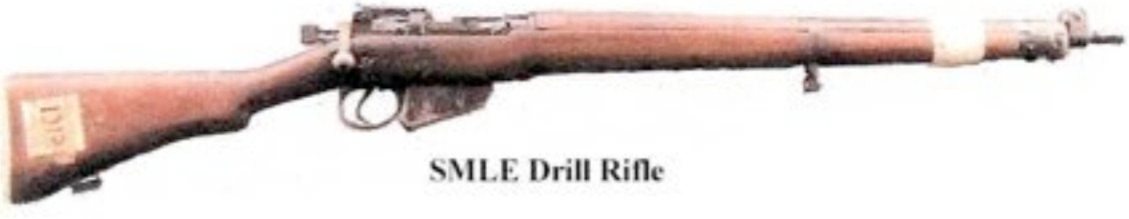
WITNESSES
Josephine L. Tiffany.
Cecilia C. Tschinkel.

INVENTORS
Edward L. Tiffany
Frederick S. Loomis
BY
Alfred Tschinkel
ATTORNEY

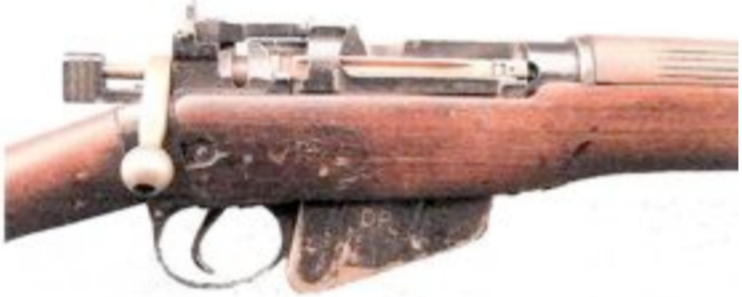
Part 1b: Foreign - Identified Rifles

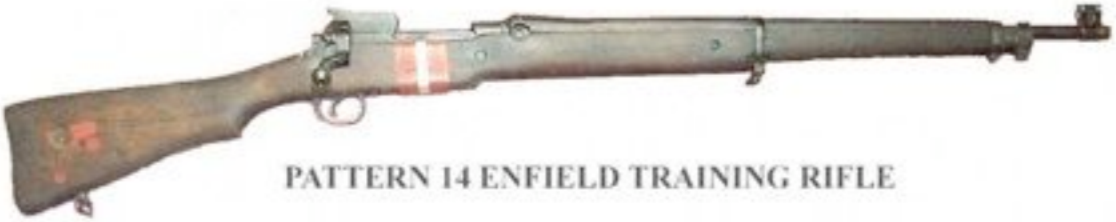
British Rifles

The British modified several models of the SMLE as well as the Pattern 14 to make drill rifles. There were different approaches to these conversions but the illustrations shown below are typical. All of these rifles are marked with a prominent DP (drill practice) somewhere on the rifle. It is uncertain how many of these drill rifles were produced but a considerable number have surfaced in this country.



SMLE Drill Rifle





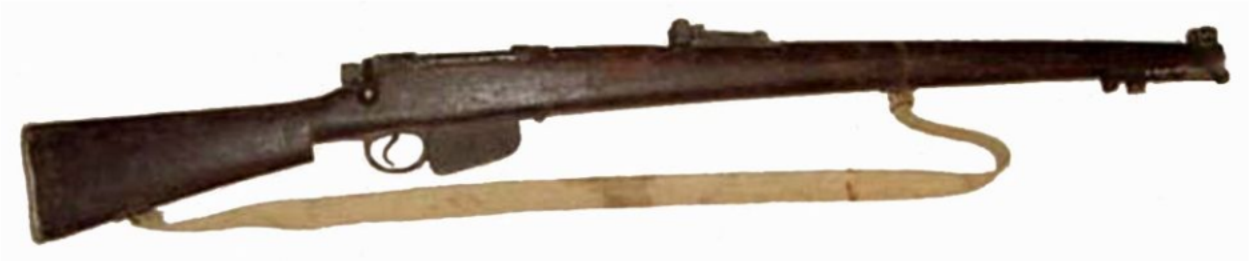
PATTERN 14 ENFIELD TRAINING RIFLE

The U.K. NRA Historic Arms Resource Center has an outstanding web site that has information on Drill and Training rifles as well as a broad range of related items. I highly recommend this site. http://www.rifleman.org.uk

SMLE Mk III Drill Rifle

This drill rifle has a wooden stock and all of the metal parts are cast from aluminum. The bolt is functional and the trigger moves and produces a clicking sound. It appear as though original metal parts were used as patterns for the front band, magazine, trigger guard, rear sight and butt plate to produce the aluminum castings. There is no barrel and the action has been significantly modified from the original rifle configuration. The rear sight in non-adjustable. The stock is an imperfect configuration but similar to the SMLE profile.

It is unmarked in any way and one can only guess as to the origin. It may have been a movie prop, a parade rifle or a drill rifle for a military school. Considerable work went into producing this rifle and because of this I would suspect that it is not one of a kind. Whatever it was, it has seen considerable use.

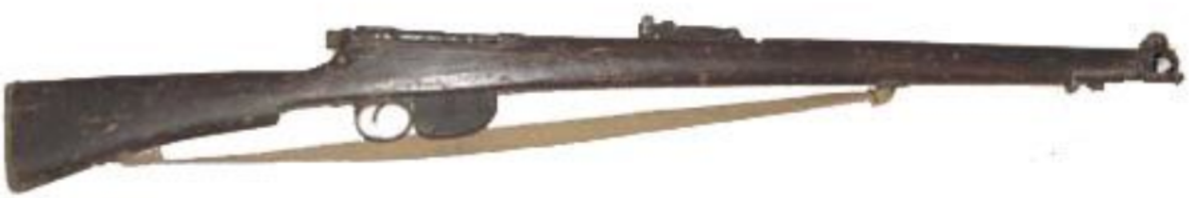


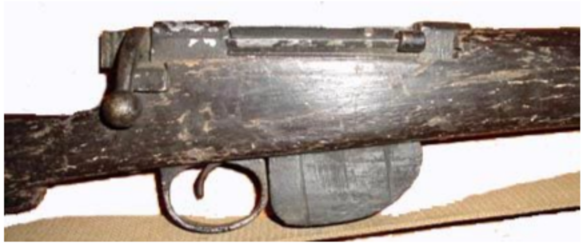
SMLE Mk III Dummy

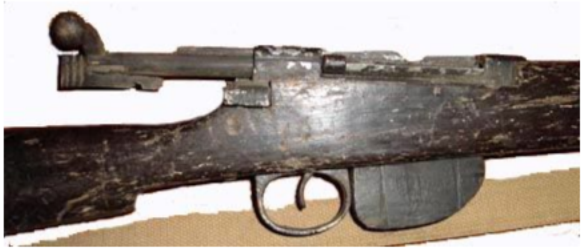
This Dummy rifle has a wooden stock and all of the metal parts are cast from aluminum.

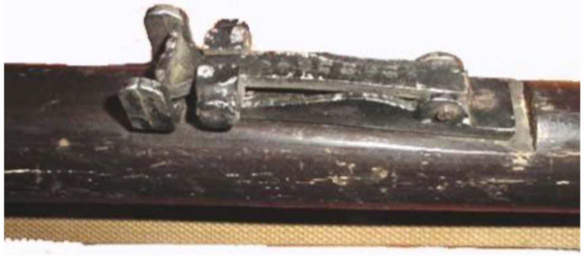
It appears that some of the original steel parts were use as foundry patterns. It is interesting in that it has no barrel but the bolt will rotate in the receiver. The trigger makes a clicking sound when pulled. The magazine is made of wood and is not removable.

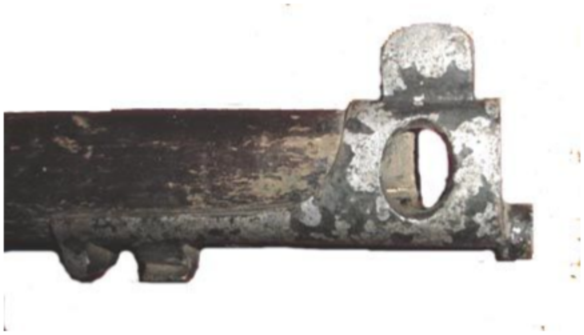
It is unmarked and is difficult to determine the age or use. It is unlikely that it was used by the Boys Brigade or as a military training rifle and it certainly is not a toy.





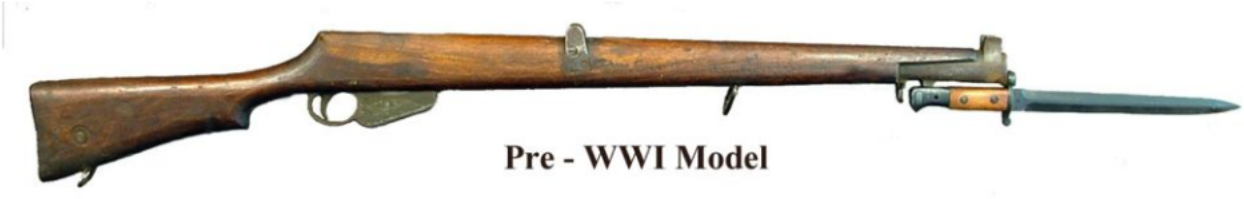




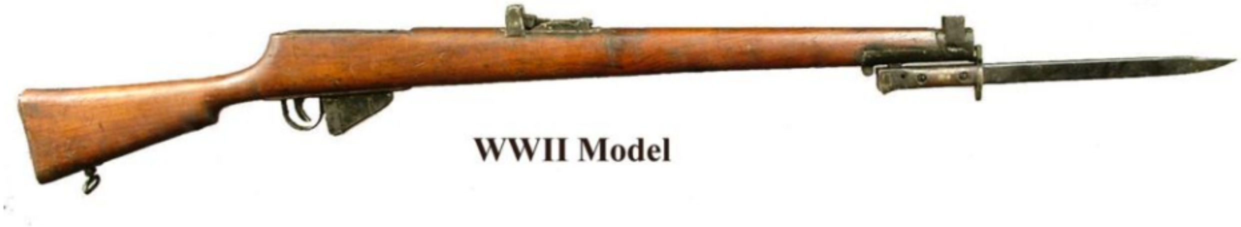


Enfield Drill and Bayonet Practice Rifle

These drill rifles were British military issue and carry correct markings. They are generally patterned after the SMLE No. I service rifle. The two models are similar in appearance but have several structural differences.



This model has a cartouche stamped in the stock with the King’s Crown over ER VII. This indicates that they were produced during the reign of Edward VII (1901-1910). The nose cap is made of cast iron and will carry a standard 1903 British bayonet. The trigger and magazine assembly is made of cast aluminum and has no moving parts. It has no barrel. The rear sight is a fixed blade between two protecting metal ears. There is a lead bar inlet into the bottom of the forearm to replicate the weight and balance of the SMLE service rifle.

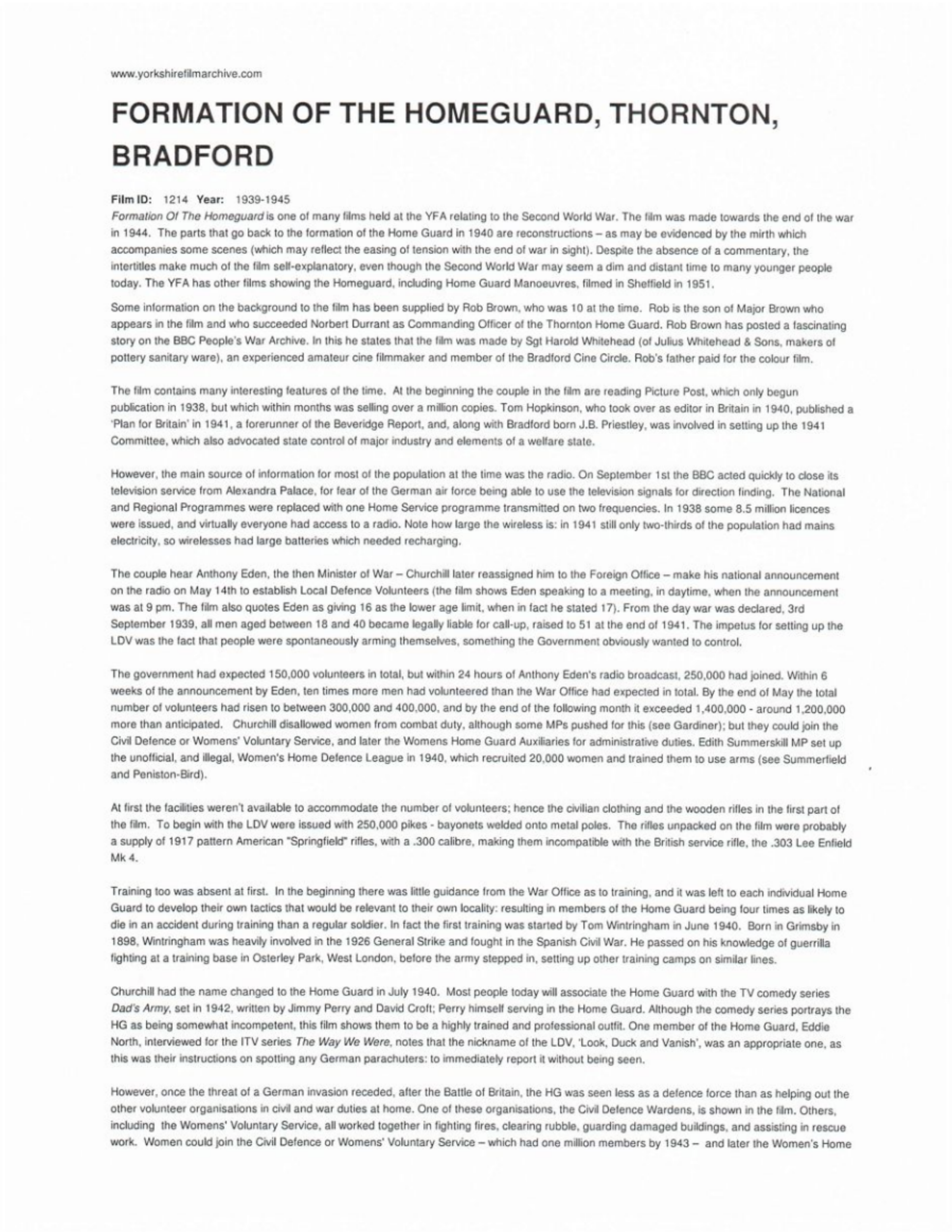


This model carries the British broad arrow mark with a date that identifies it as being British WWII period issue. The trigger and magazine assembly is fabricated from sheet steel and has no moving parts. The rear sight is an adjustable die cast part and all of the others metal parts are made from cast iron. It has no barrel or lead weight. This rifle is also designed to carry the standard British bayonet.

There is very little information relating to either of these rifles. I suspect that they were produce in British arsenals in relatively small quantities. Like many other British military artifacts, they are over built for their purpose. It seems likely that they would have seen the most use during WWI since there was more close-in fighting where bayonet training would have been more critical. Due to the shortage of SMLE service rifles at the start of WWII it seems strange that they would have used any production facilities to produce any form of bayonet training rifle. It is obvious that they simplified the WWII version to facilitate manufacture and to reduce costs.

British Home Guard

I am indebted to David Morse for the information that he has provided relating to the British Home Guard. David is a member of the Leicester Home Guard Re-enactment group based in England and is very knowledgeable about their weapons and related equipment. He has several early drill rifles and has shared photographs of them.



www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com

FORMATION OF THE HOMEGUARD, THORNTON, BRADFORD

Film ID: 1214 **Year:** 1939-1945

Formation Of The Homeguard is one of many films held at the YFA relating to the Second World War. The film was made towards the end of the war in 1944. The parts that go back to the formation of the Home Guard in 1940 are reconstructions – as may be evidenced by the mirth which accompanies some scenes (which may reflect the easing of tension with the end of war in sight). Despite the absence of a commentary, the intertitles make much of the film self-explanatory, even though the Second World War may seem a dim and distant time to many younger people today. The YFA has other films showing the Homeguard, including Home Guard Manoeuvres, filmed in Sheffield in 1951.

Some information on the background to the film has been supplied by Rob Brown, who was 10 at the time. Rob is the son of Major Brown who appears in the film and who succeeded Norbert Durrant as Commanding Officer of the Thornton Home Guard. Rob Brown has posted a fascinating story on the BBC People's War Archive. In this he states that the film was made by Sgt Harold Whitehead (of Julius Whitehead & Sons, makers of pottery sanitary ware), an experienced amateur cine filmmaker and member of the Bradford Cine Circle. Rob's father paid for the colour film.

The film contains many interesting features of the time. At the beginning the couple in the film are reading Picture Post, which only begun publication in 1938, but which within months was selling over a million copies. Tom Hopkinson, who took over as editor in Britain in 1940, published a 'Plan for Britain' in 1941, a forerunner of the Beveridge Report, and, along with Bradford born J.B. Priestley, was involved in setting up the 1941 Committee, which also advocated state control of major industry and elements of a welfare state.

However, the main source of information for most of the population at the time was the radio. On September 1st the BBC acted quickly to close its television service from Alexandra Palace, for fear of the German air force being able to use the television signals for direction finding. The National and Regional Programmes were replaced with one Home Service programme transmitted on two frequencies. In 1938 some 8.5 million licences were issued, and virtually everyone had access to a radio. Note how large the wireless is: in 1941 still only two-thirds of the population had mains electricity, so wirelesses had large batteries which needed recharging.

The couple hear Anthony Eden, the then Minister of War – Churchill later reassigned him to the Foreign Office – make his national announcement on the radio on May 14th to establish Local Defence Volunteers (the film shows Eden speaking to a meeting, in daytime, when the announcement was at 9 pm. The film also quotes Eden as giving 16 as the lower age limit, when in fact he stated 17). From the day war was declared, 3rd September 1939, all men aged between 18 and 40 became legally liable for call-up, raised to 51 at the end of 1941. The impetus for setting up the LDV was the fact that people were spontaneously arming themselves, something the Government obviously wanted to control.

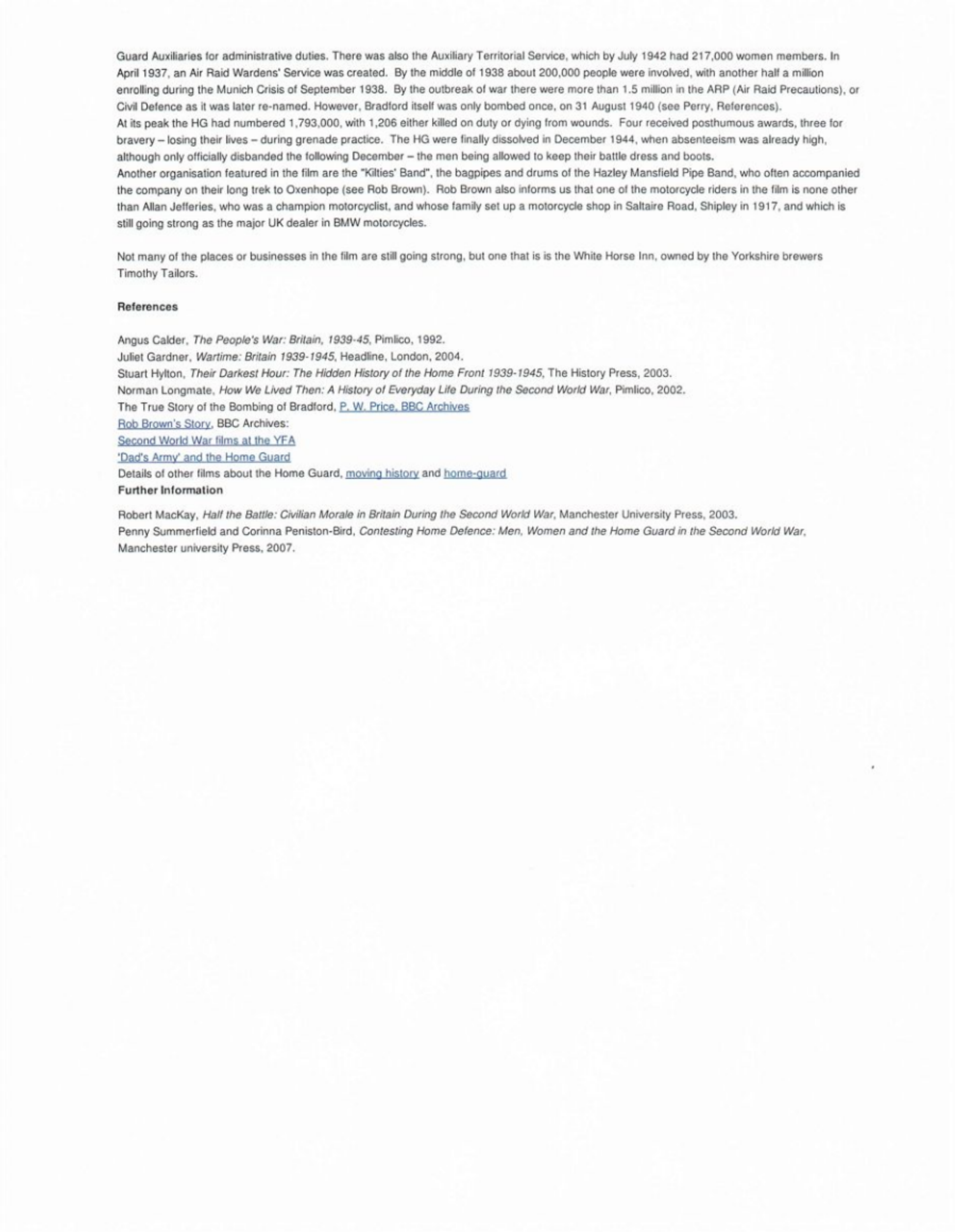
The government had expected 150,000 volunteers in total, but within 24 hours of Anthony Eden's radio broadcast, 250,000 had joined. Within 6 weeks of the announcement by Eden, ten times more men had volunteered than the War Office had expected in total. By the end of May the total number of volunteers had risen to between 300,000 and 400,000, and by the end of the following month it exceeded 1,400,000 - around 1,200,000 more than anticipated. Churchill disallowed women from combat duty, although some MPs pushed for this (see Gardiner); but they could join the Civil Defence or Womens' Voluntary Service, and later the Womens Home Guard Auxiliaries for administrative duties. Edith Summerskill MP set up the unofficial, and illegal, Women's Home Defence League in 1940, which recruited 20,000 women and trained them to use arms (see Summerfield and Peniston-Bird).

At first the facilities weren't available to accommodate the number of volunteers; hence the civilian clothing and the wooden rifles in the first part of the film. To begin with the LDV were issued with 250,000 pikes - bayonets welded onto metal poles. The rifles unpacked on the film were probably a supply of 1917 pattern American "Springfield" rifles, with a .300 calibre, making them incompatible with the British service rifle, the .303 Lee Enfield Mk 4.

Training too was absent at first. In the beginning there was little guidance from the War Office as to training, and it was left to each individual Home Guard to develop their own tactics that would be relevant to their own locality: resulting in members of the Home Guard being four times as likely to die in an accident during training than a regular soldier. In fact the first training was started by Tom Wintringham in June 1940. Born in Grimsby in 1898, Wintringham was heavily involved in the 1926 General Strike and fought in the Spanish Civil War. He passed on his knowledge of guerrilla fighting at a training base in Osterley Park, West London, before the army stepped in, setting up other training camps on similar lines.

Churchill had the name changed to the Home Guard in July 1940. Most people today will associate the Home Guard with the TV comedy series *Dad's Army*, set in 1942, written by Jimmy Perry and David Croft; Perry himself serving in the Home Guard. Although the comedy series portrays the HG as being somewhat incompetent, this film shows them to be a highly trained and professional outfit. One member of the Home Guard, Eddie North, interviewed for the ITV series *The Way We Were*, notes that the nickname of the LDV, 'Look, Duck and Vanish', was an appropriate one, as this was their instructions on spotting any German parachuters: to immediately report it without being seen.

However, once the threat of a German invasion receded, after the Battle of Britain, the HG was seen less as a defence force than as helping out the other volunteer organisations in civil and war duties at home. One of these organisations, the Civil Defence Wardens, is shown in the film. Others, including the Womens' Voluntary Service, all worked together in fighting fires, clearing rubble, guarding damaged buildings, and assisting in rescue work. Women could join the Civil Defence or Womens' Voluntary Service – which had one million members by 1943 – and later the Women's Home



Guard Auxiliaries for administrative duties. There was also the Auxiliary Territorial Service, which by July 1942 had 217,000 women members. In April 1937, an Air Raid Wardens' Service was created. By the middle of 1938 about 200,000 people were involved, with another half a million enrolling during the Munich Crisis of September 1938. By the outbreak of war there were more than 1.5 million in the ARP (Air Raid Precautions), or Civil Defence as it was later re-named. However, Bradford itself was only bombed once, on 31 August 1940 (see Perry, References).

At its peak the HG had numbered 1,793,000, with 1,206 either killed on duty or dying from wounds. Four received posthumous awards, three for bravery – losing their lives – during grenade practice. The HG were finally dissolved in December 1944, when absenteeism was already high, although only officially disbanded the following December – the men being allowed to keep their battle dress and boots.

Another organisation featured in the film are the "Kilties' Band", the bagpipes and drums of the Hazley Mansfield Pipe Band, who often accompanied the company on their long trek to Oxenhope (see Rob Brown). Rob Brown also informs us that one of the motorcycle riders in the film is none other than Allan Jefferies, who was a champion motorcyclist, and whose family set up a motorcycle shop in Saltaire Road, Shipley in 1917, and which is still going strong as the major UK dealer in BMW motorcycles.

Not many of the places or businesses in the film are still going strong, but one that is is the White Horse Inn, owned by the Yorkshire brewers Timothy Tailors.

References

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Juliet Gardner, *Wartime: Britain 1939-1945*, Headline, London, 2004.
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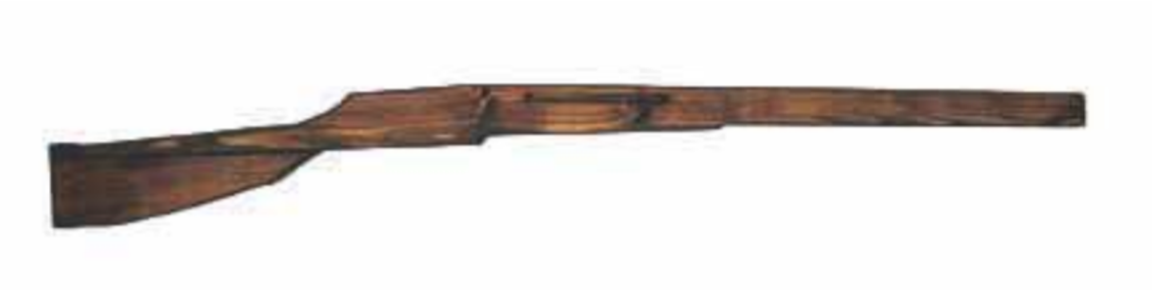
Norman Longmate, *How We Lived Then: A History of Everyday Life During the Second World War*, Pimlico, 2002.
The True Story of the Bombing of Bradford, P. W. Price, BBC Archives
Rob Brown's Story, BBC Archives:
Second World War films at the YFA
'Dad's Army' and the Home Guard
Details of other films about the Home Guard, moving history and home-guard

Further Information

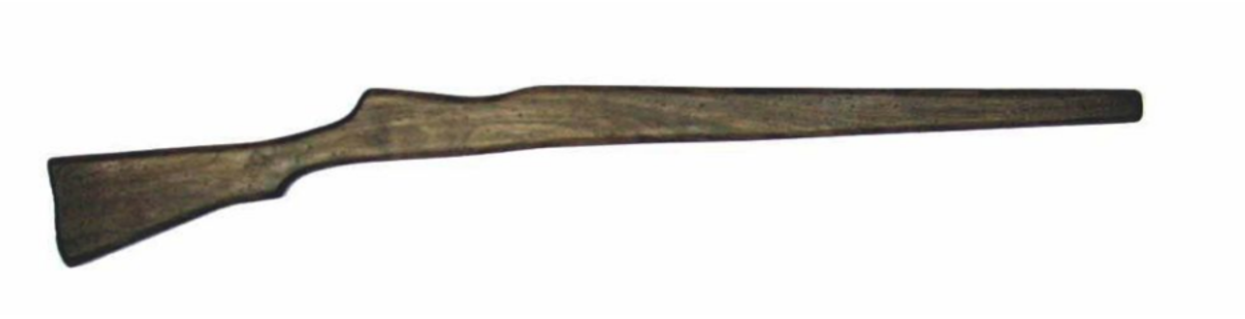
Robert MacKay, *Half the Battle: Civilian Morale in Britain During the Second World War*, Manchester University Press, 2003.
Penny Summerfield and Corinna Peniston-Bird, *Contesting Home Defence: Men, Women and the Home Guard in the Second World War*, Manchester university Press, 2007.

The section that follows shows examples of Home Guard drill rifles. In 1940 when these home built drill rifles were produced there was a severe shortage of materials in England due to the critical war production. Most of the Home Guard drill rifles reflect this shortage. They had to be made using minimal materials that could be salvaged. The makers were very creative in their approach. It is also apparent that they did not have examples of the current military rifles to use as patterns. Many of these rifles are somewhat over length and have unusual profiles. However, there are examples that have considerable detail and are quite similar to the SMLE service rifle. It seems that the most common pattern for the simplest Home Guard rifles was the Pattern 14 Enfield.



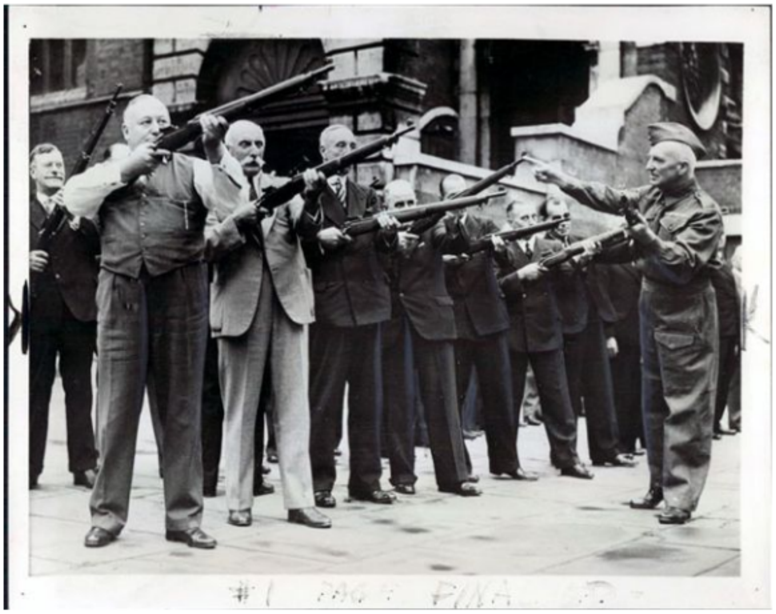
This rifle is unique in that it was made from a common 2x4 pine board. It is 51 inches long and was made in two pieces that were nailed together. The butt portion was shaped in such a was that it could be partially cut from the waste piece left over from the main portion, thus saving several inches of wood. The radiuses on the edges of the 2x4 produce the odd appearing joint where the two surfaces meet. The long main section was cut diagonally across the board so it could effectively produce greater drop at the butt. The resulting profile is a rather crude replica of the Pattern 14 Enfield. One interesting feature is the metal strip that overlaps the butt that produces a protective butt plate and strengthens the joint. It was not inlet into the wood to reduce the production time.

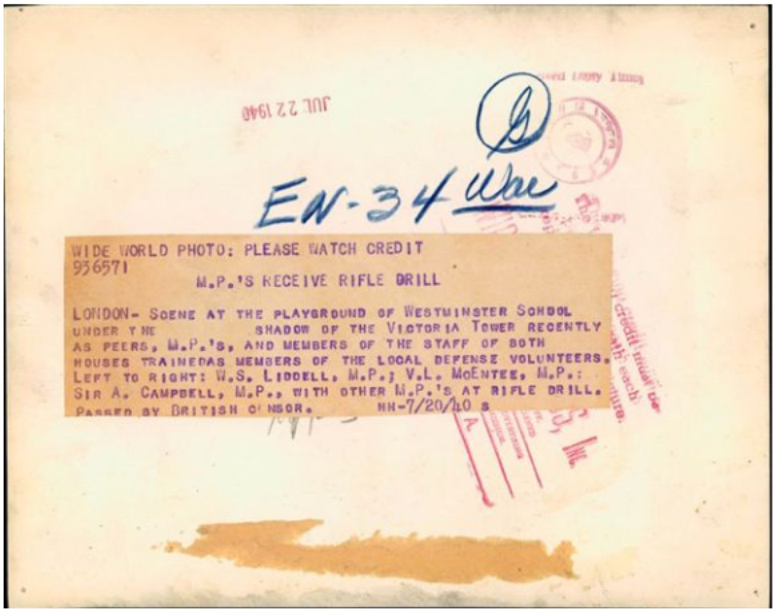
The following drill rifles reflect the diversity of design and execution of Home Guard drill rifles.



The following photos are examples to Home Guard rifles in use.

This photo is of Members of Parliament being given instruction in the use of military rifles. You will not that they are using what appear to be functional Pattern 14 Enfield rifles rather than crude replicas.





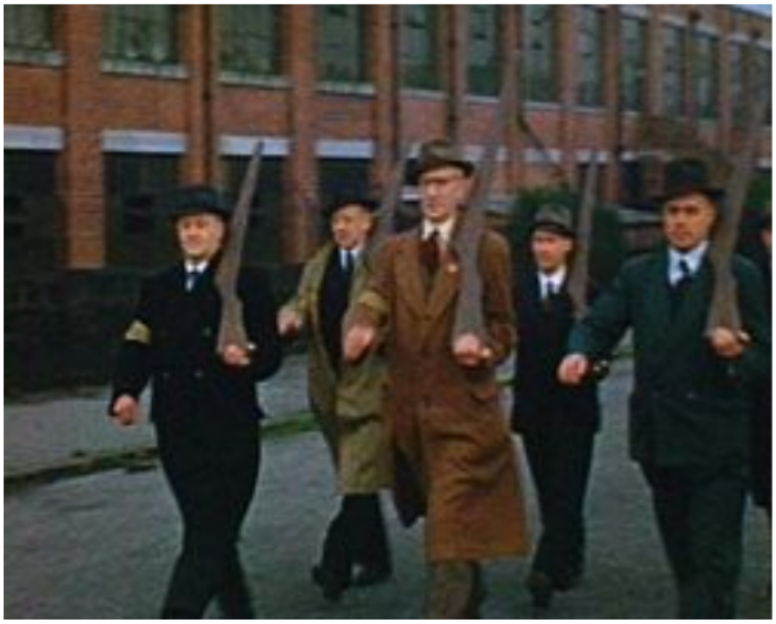
JUL 22 1940

EN-34 War

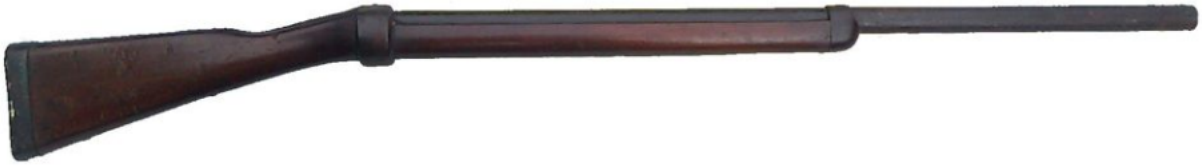
WIDE WORLD PHOTO: PLEASE WATCH CREDIT
936571
M.P.'S RECEIVE RIFLE DRILL

LONDON- SCENE AT THE PLAYGROUND OF WESTMINSTER SCHOOL UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE VICTORIA TOWER RECENTLY AS PEERS, M.P.'S, AND MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF BOTH HOUSES TRAINEDAS MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DEFENSE VOLUNTEERS. LEFT TO RIGHT: W.S. LIDDELL, M.P.; V.L. MCENTEE, M.P.: SIR A. CAMPBELL, M.P., WITH OTHER M.P.'S AT RIFLE DRILL. PASSED BY BRITISH CENSOR. HH-7/20/40 S

This photograph was taken from a film that was produced in 1944 to document the activities of the Home Guard. This is a group of men demonstrating early drill with typical drill rifles for that film.



Webley & Scott Drill Rifle



1916
↑
C.G. BONEHILL, RIFLE MAKER, BIRMINGHAM
X

This Webley & Scott was originally a Bayonet Fencing Rifle that was converted for drill purposes. I am indebted to Garron Clark- Darby for the following information.

This rifle was obtained on the Island of Jersey (British Channel Islands). It was used during WWII by the local Home Guard when the Germans were threatening to invade the islands. The spring-loaded bayonet was removed to make it appear that they were armed with service rifles.

Some time after the Home Guard was disbanded all of these rifles were given to the No. 7 Jersey Squadron of the Air Cadets (a UK military youth movement) for them to use for drill purposes. The Cadets were later issued DP Lee Enfield No.4 rifles and the Webley & Scott rifles were declared surplus.

I have included this in the drill rifle section because of it's unique nature. An unmodified Webley & Scott Bayonet Fencing Rifle may be found in the bayonet fencing rifle section.

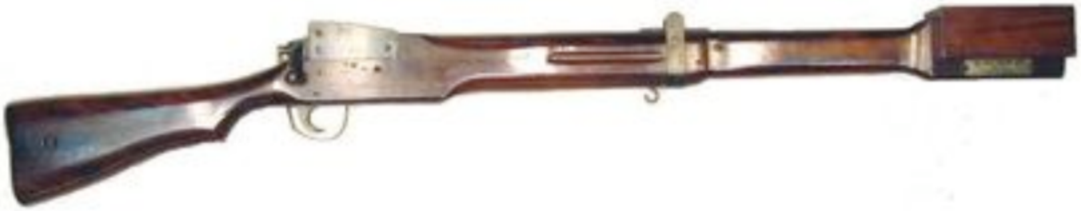
Swift Training Rifle

The Swift Training Rifle system was developed in Great Britain in 1941. At the start of WWII there was a severe shortage of usable firearms both by the military and by the general population. This was due to the policy of disarming the population following World War I. American hunters and shooters contributed sporting rifles to arm the British citizens when it was feared that Germany was going to invade England.

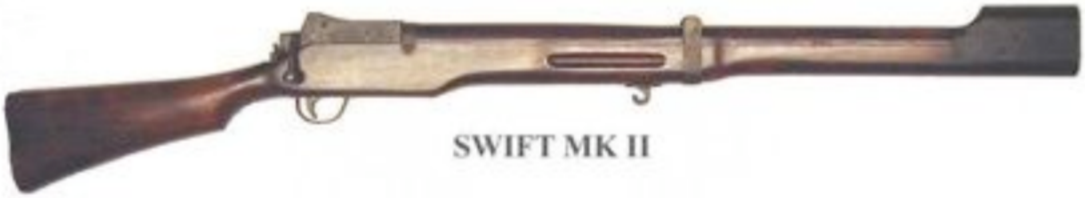
The Swift Training Rifle is one of the most complex training rifles ever produced. In principle it had two needles that moved forward when the trigger was released and they pierced a paper target that was held in a frame near the muzzle. This allowed the instructor to evaluate the sight picture and whether the rifle was being canted. Viewing the sectional drawing of the Swift shows clearly the complexity of working parts. Before the Swift was ever produced, the military had serious concerns about the practicality of such a device. Under the stress of severe shortages of weapons the Swift went into production late in 1941.

The Swift Training Rifle was used by the British Home Guard. This was a group of approximately 1.5 million older civilian men who were being organized to defend the British shoreline. The RAF also formally adopted the Swift and the ground crews started training with them early in 1942. There were approximately 16000 Swift training Rifles produce from 1941-1943. There were four different configurations of the Swift which were designate MK I, MK II, MK III and MK IV. The MK I and MK II are generally patterned after the Pattern 14 Enfield rifle. There were some modifications made in the MK III and the MKIV to make them look and feel more like the SMLE rifle which was the primary rifle of the British Army. All of these training rifles have a one piece stock and function in the same manner. There is a spring loaded mechanism in the butt stock that requires that the rifle be pulled firmly against the shooters shoulder in order to make the trigger function. You will notice a small ring located at the base of the butt stock that holds the mechanism in the locked position. This ring must be removed in order to use the training rifle.

Since this was a complete system, the training rifles and a sight testing frame were packaged in a very well made wooden transit case. A separate target frame was included with a shipment of rifles. These training rifles are extremely well made and were expensive to produce. One has to wonder why their efforts were not directed toward producing functional rifles.



SWIFT MK I



SWIFT MK II

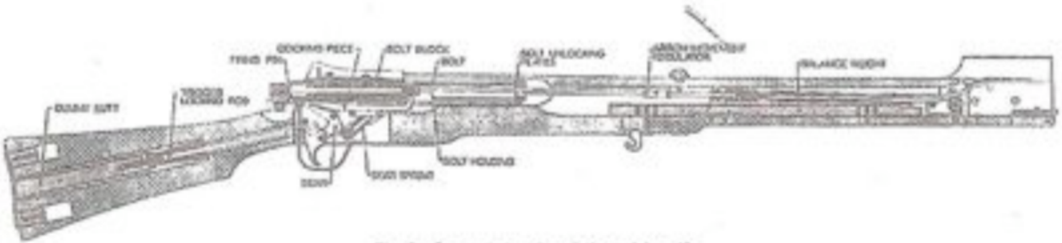
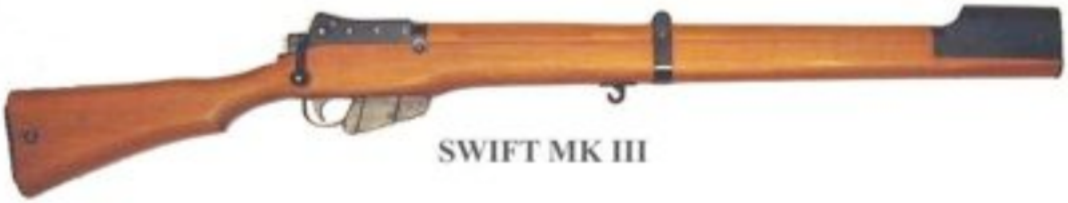
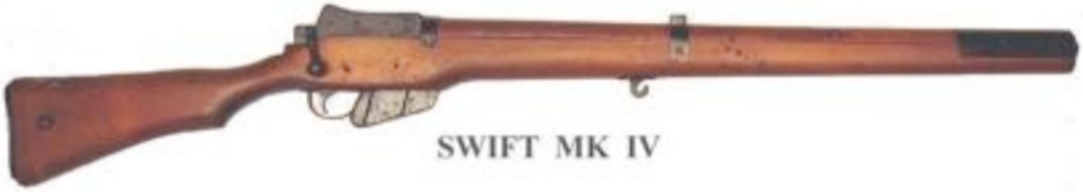


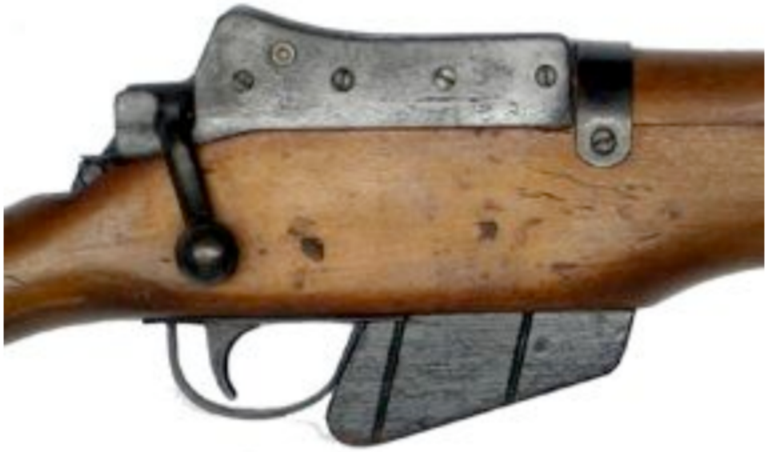
Fig. 8.—Sectional elevation of the training rifle

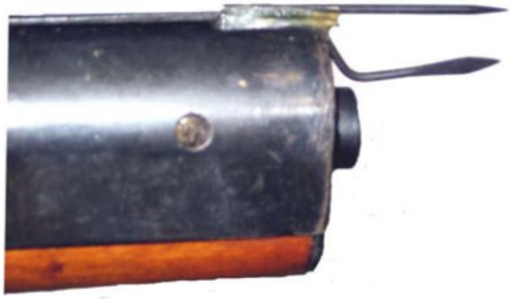


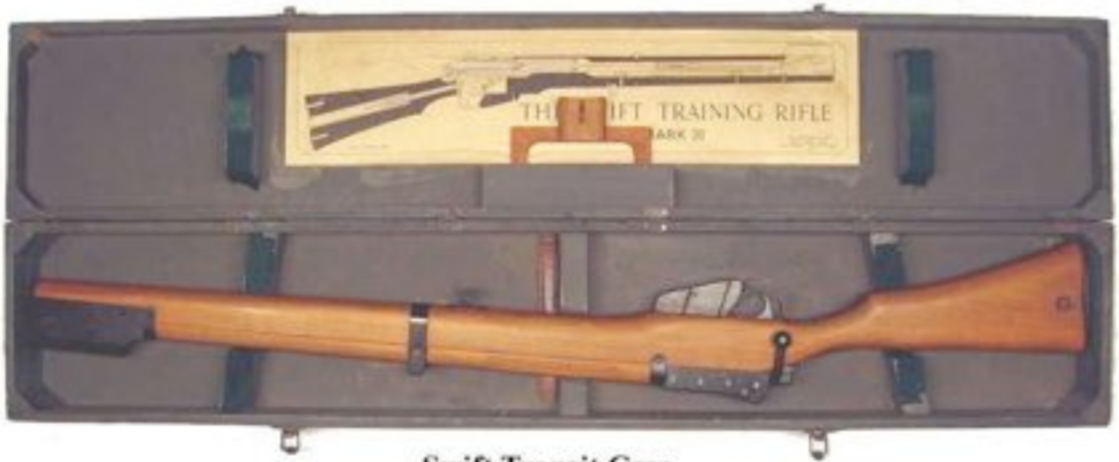
SWIFT MK III



SWIFT MK IV

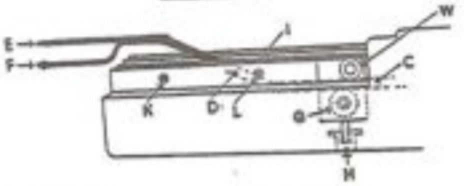






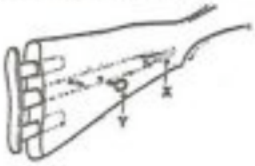
Swift Transit Case

DRAWING 2.



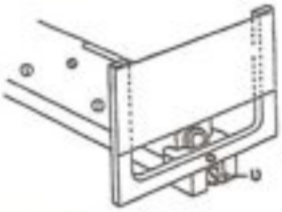
C ... Arrow.
D ... Swanneck.
E ... Conical Pin.
F ... Flat Spear Head Pin.
G ... Bearing Roller.
H ... Screw to Adjust Arrow.

I Gutter.
K } Adjusting Screws
L } for Gutter.
W Top Roller.



X ... Butt Spring.
Y ... Butt Plug.

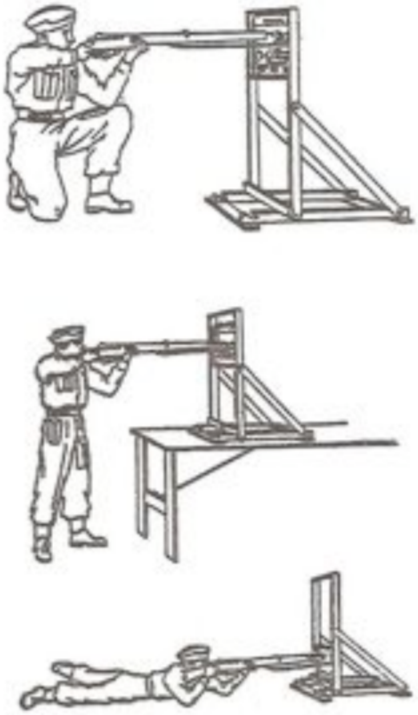
DRAWING 3.



U ... Screw for Fixing Sight Testing Frame.

DRAWING 4.

DRAWING 5.



THE SWIFT TRAINING RIFLE & TARGET STAND.

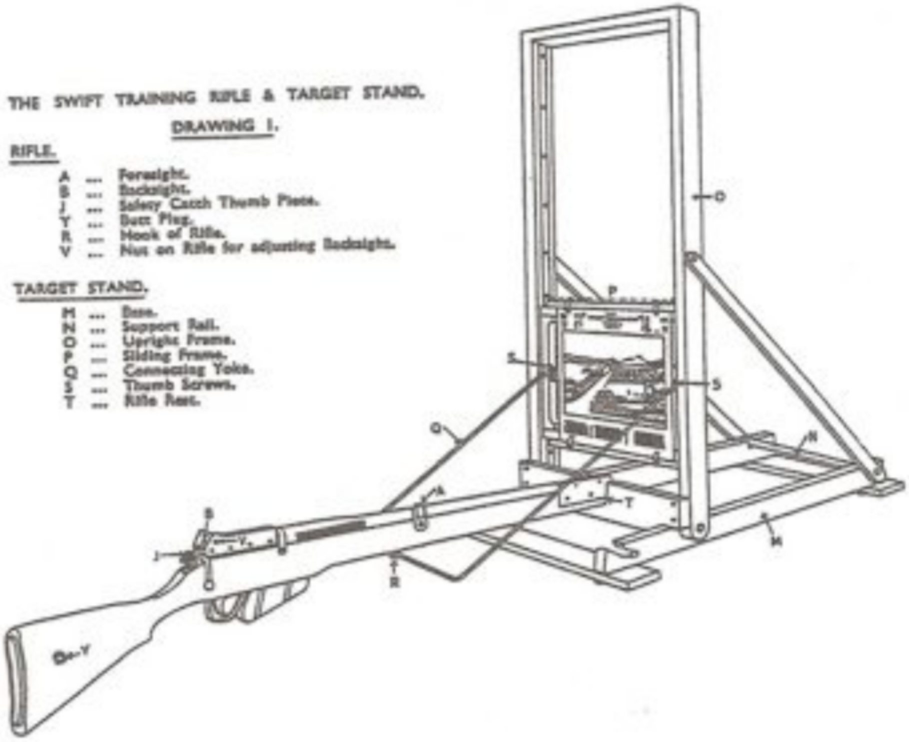
DRAWING 1.

RIFLE.

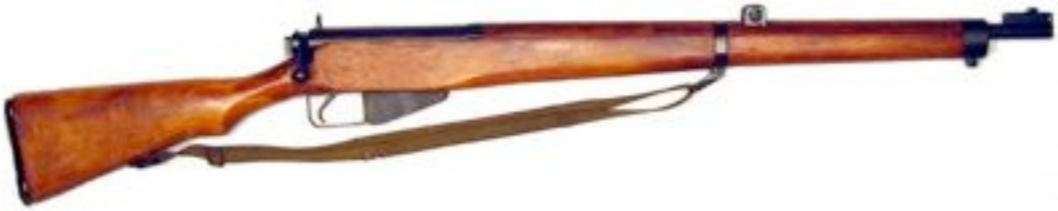
A ... Foresight.
B ... Backsight.
J ... Safety Catch Thumb Piece.
Y ... Butt Plug.
R ... Hook of Rifle.
V ... Nut on Rifle for adjusting Backsight.

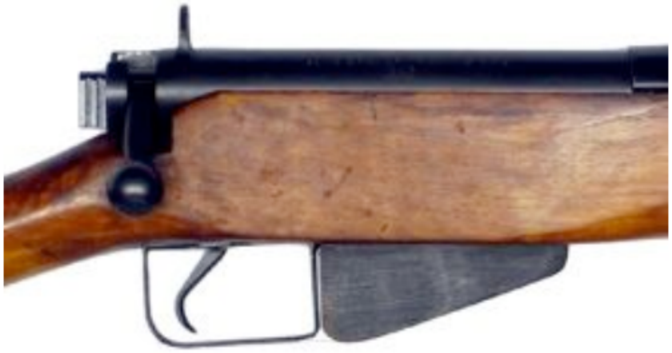
TARGET STAND.

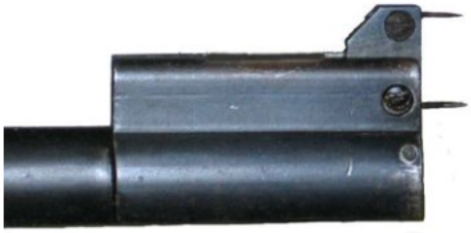
M ... Base.
N ... Support Rail.
O ... Upright Frame.
P ... Sliding Frame.
Q ... Connecting Yoke.
S ... Thumb Screws.
T ... Rifle Rest.



Long Branch Training Rifle







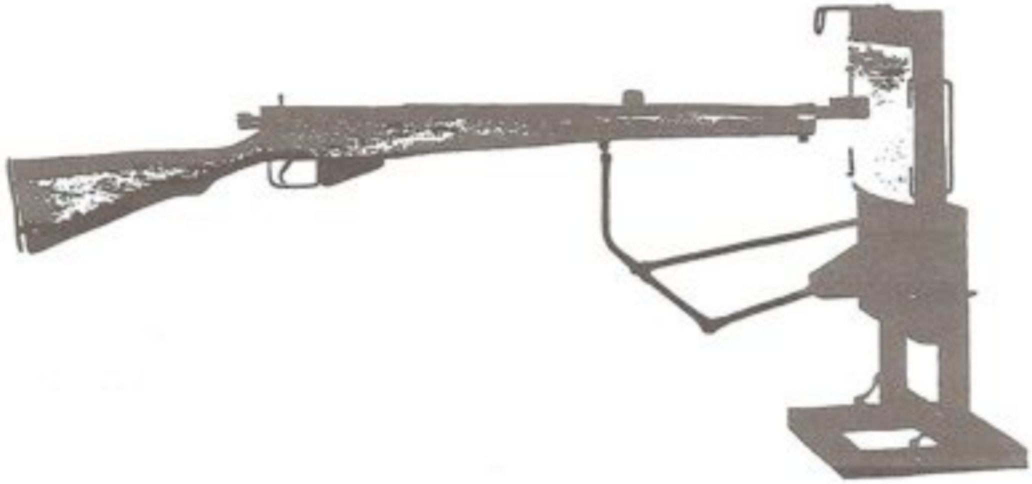
The Long Branch Training Rifle was produced at the Long Branch Arsenal near Toronto, Canada in 1943 and 1944. There is no evidence that these training rifles were used anywhere other than in Canada. They were used for preliminary rifle training of all forces requiring ground defense training. There was only one model but they were marked either 1943 or 1944 depending on the year that they were produced. A total of about 4000 training rifles were produced during that period. They continued in use until about 1950.

They worked on the same principle as the Swift Training Rifle but had a much simplified mechanism. They were also patterned after the SMLE service rifle and actually used a SMLE bolt body. Although there were those who questioned the value of such a training rifle, the Long Branch had distinct advantages over the Swift. The simplified mechanism was equally effective and it was much cheaper to produce. In most aspects it was a closer replica of the SMLE service rifle.

LONG BRANCH TRAINING RIFLE

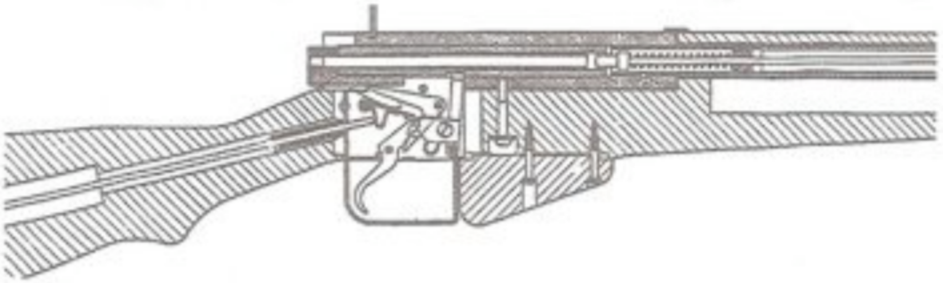
DATA SUMMARY

(Rifles, Long Branch, Training 1943 Pattern)



1. Type of Action—Bolt action.
2. Magazine—Dummy, wooden block.
3. Weight of Rifle—8½ lbs.
4. Weight of Target Stand—6¾ lbs.
5. Length of Rifle—3 feet 8½ inches.
6. Sights—Aperture, rear.
   Blade, front.
7. Sights, Adjustment—Sight so adjusted as to line up with contact point of top needle. Fore sight blades as for No. 4 rifle; see CALEMEI, S.A.M.G., C 415.
8. Distance from Muzzle to Face Panel of Target Stand—Not to exceed ¼".

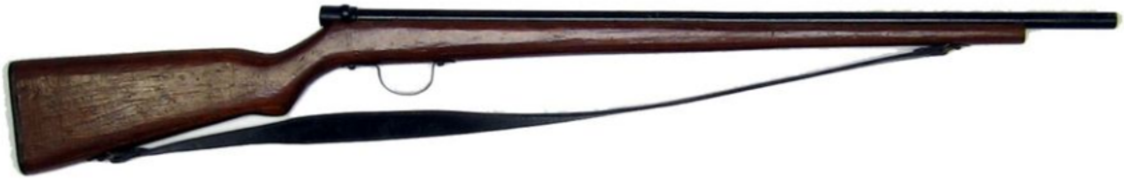
END



Issue 1—16 Apr 1945

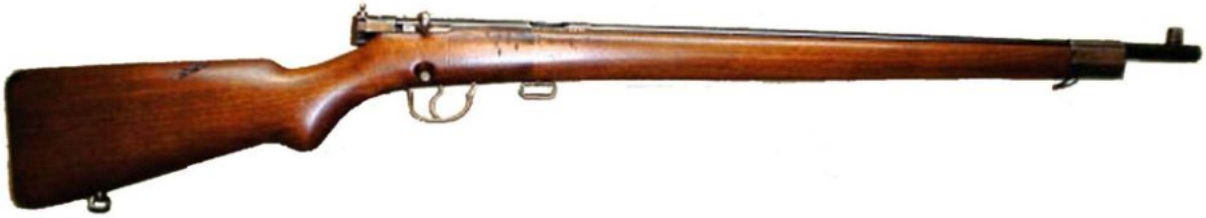
Distribution Code No. 67

Ross Cadet Drill Rifle



I am indebted to Bruce Ellis, a Canadian friend, who very generously provided me with an example of the Ross Cadet drill rifle. These drill rifles were produced for use by the Boy's Brigade or the Church Lad's Brigade. They were patterned after the 22 RF caliber Cadet military rifle that was produced by the Ross Rifle Co. However, these wooden Cadet drill rifles have no connection to the Ross Rifle Co. At this time it is unknown who may have produced them or how many were produced. They were machine made, so I would assume that they were made in some quantity. That being said, I am certain that they are a rare item.

The Canadian Government ordered 10,000 of the 22 RF single shot training rifles from the Ross Rifle Co. in 1912 with delivery starting in 1913. These rifles had a straight pull bolt like the full size military Ross and were issued for training purposes.



The Boy's Brigade generally discontinued the use of drill rifles following WWI. It seems unlikely that these wooden Ross Cadet drill rifles would have been made prior 1918 or after 1935. The only marking is the number 18 stamped into the stock, this is most certainly a stacking number rather than a serial number.

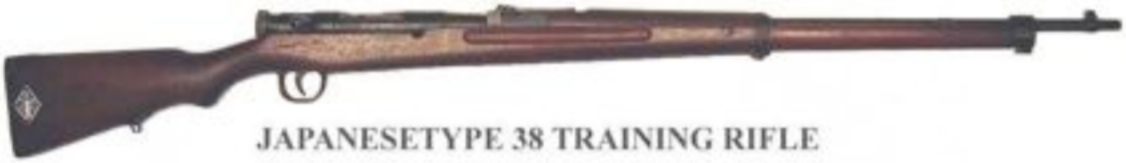
They are made almost entirely out of wood but had a sheet metal trigger guard. There was no trigger provided and no moving parts. The barrel is a wooden rod that is attached to the stock with four nails. One oddity is a very well made carrying strap made of good quality leather. Most of the drill rifles used by the Boys Brigade had a canvas strap for a sling. Of the few specimens known to exist, all of them are missing a short section of receiver at the rear end of the barrel. This receiver section was held on with a drop of adhesive and a single nail. At this time it is impossible to determine what this section looked like. It is my opinion that it must have had a short straight bolt handle like the military model and although it was nonfunctional, it was an important appearance feature. I can see the young boys grabbing this bolt handle and pulling it back. Due to the very weak attachment this action would have resulted in tearing the receiver section off. I have replaced the receiver on this specimen to show how the receiver may have appeared.

Japanese Rifles

Starting in the 1920's, the Japanese government required all junior and senior high school boys to have two hours a week of military training. Several companies started producing the necessary training rifles for this purpose. Unfortunately most training rifles did not bear markings that identified their origin.

These training rifles had no standard design and were often made from older models of military rifles or parts from these rifles. Therefore you will find many variations of the same model. There are known models that used 1888 Mauser, type 99, type 30, and type 38 rifle parts. These training rifles continued to be produced until the late 1930's. Some of these rifles could not be fired while others would fire wooden bullet blank ammunition. Many of the blank firing rifles were made with smooth bore barrels. Rarely would any of these rifles fire the standard service round. Nearly all of these training rifles could carry bayonets.

Type 38 Arisaka Training Rifle



The type 38 rifle was introduced in 1905 and production continued until the end of WWII. The change from 6.5 mm to 7.7mm ammunition began in 1939. During the 1920's and 1930's a number of the Type 38 rifles were converted into training rifles.

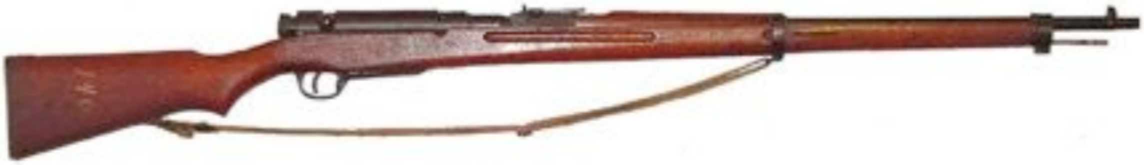
Some of the Type 38 training rifles were designed to fire a 6.5mm wooden bullet blank cartridge. Others have no chamber in the barrel and were not designed to fire although they have the necessary parts to do so. They have cast iron metal parts and would never withstand the pressure of the service round. All of the training rifles have a smooth bore barrel and a solid tang on the receiver.

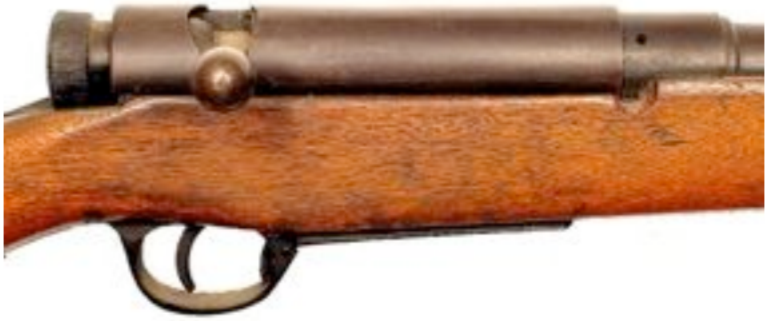
The Type 38 type training rifle shown below has a barrel that is loosely threaded into an extension on the front of the cast iron receiver. The barrel is held in alignment by the rear sight base and the smooth bore barrel has no chamber. The firing pin tip is too short to reach the face of the bolt. It is obvious that it was never intended to fire even the blank rounds. Although the parts are well finished they are rather coarse castings, being generally oversize. None of the metal parts have been hardened and there is considerable upsetting on mating parts. There is little evidence of heavy use so the parts must be very soft.

On the right side of the butt stock there is a small metal plate with Japanese writing and it has the number 39 stamped into the surface of the plate. The receiver has no markings other than the number 67 which is stamped into the left side of the receiver just above the wood surface.

Overall, this training rifle is in good original condition. I would assume that this rifle saw very little use.

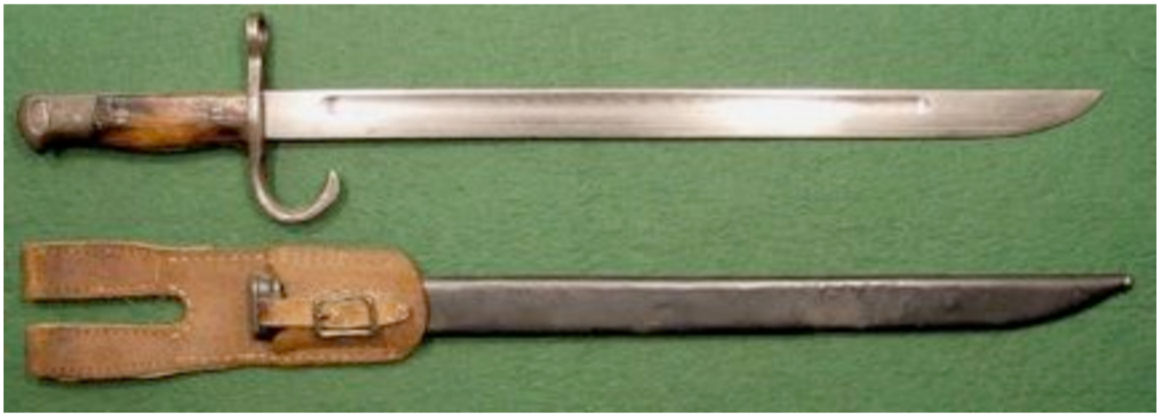
Type 38 Variation



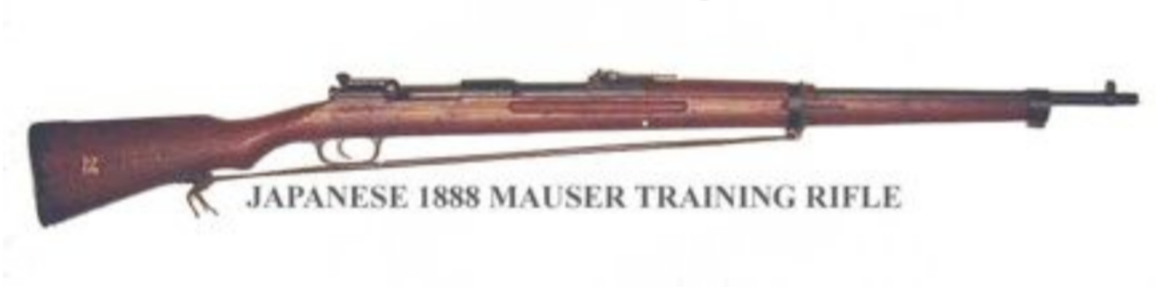


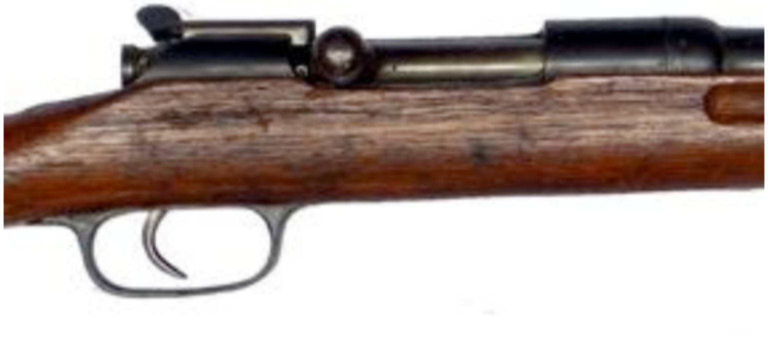
This is an unusual training rifle variation. It has a cast iron receiver with a steel dust cover. I suspect that this specimen was made in the early 1930's when materials were still plentiful. It is chambered for the 6.5 mm wooden bullet blank and has a smooth bore barrel. It was brought back by a GI following WWII, complete with sling and bayonet.

Japanese training rifle bayonets are basically the same shape as the standard service bayonet. However, they are not heat treated and can be easily bent. They are generally not sharpened and have some rounded edges. Often the grips are held on with wood screws. Then scabbards are nearly service quality but somewhat thinner.



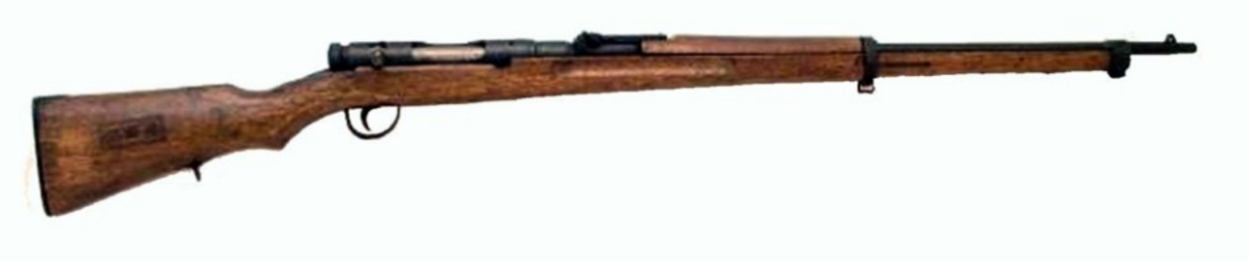
1888 Mauser Training Rifle

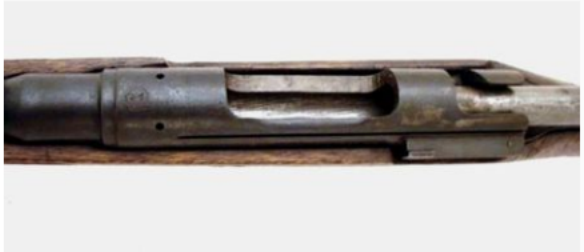


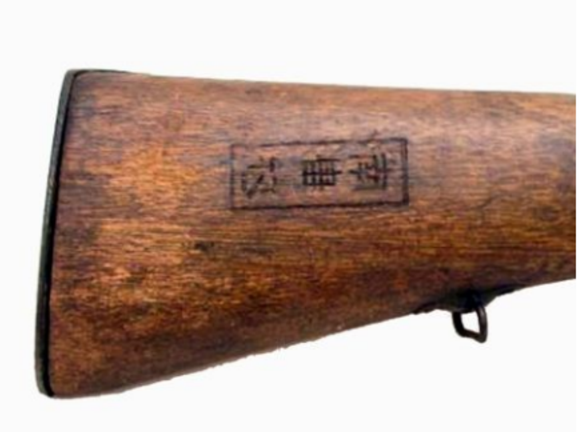


This training rifle was based upon an obsolete model 1888 Mauser that had been a military rifle for the Japanese prior to 1900. It has had considerable modification. The barrel sleeve was removed, the magazine cut off and some action parts replaced with crude copies.

Japanese Single Shot Training Rifle

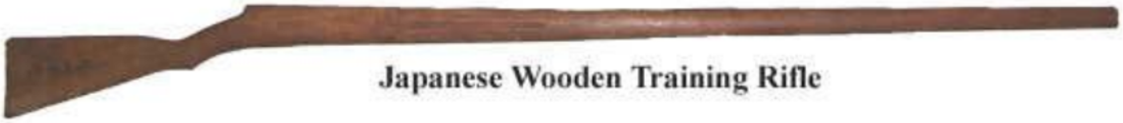






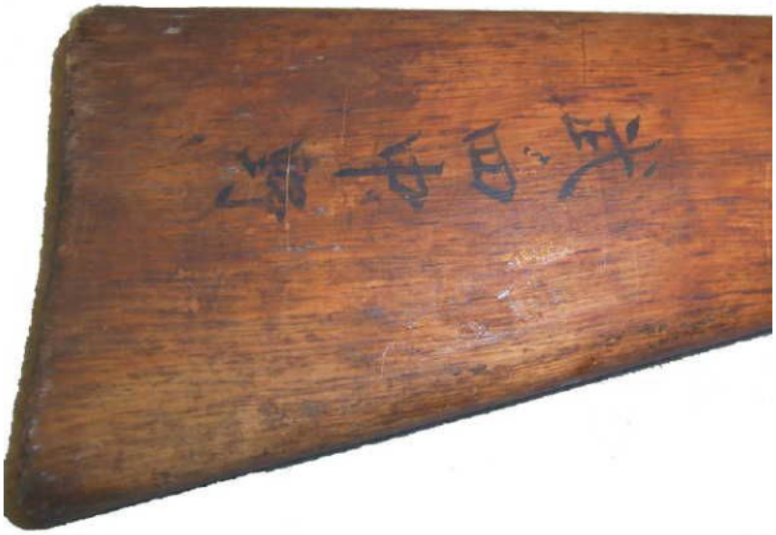
This is an early training rifle that was used for school instruction prior to WWII. It is unusual in that it has Japanese markings on the receiver and butt stock. It seems to be a more accurate replica of the military rifles than many of the training rifles used for school purposes. It originally had a dust cover and was designed to fire blank rounds.

Wooden Training Rifle

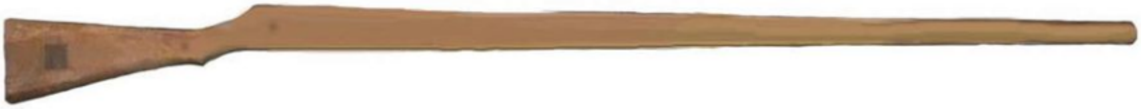


Japanese Wooden Training Rifle

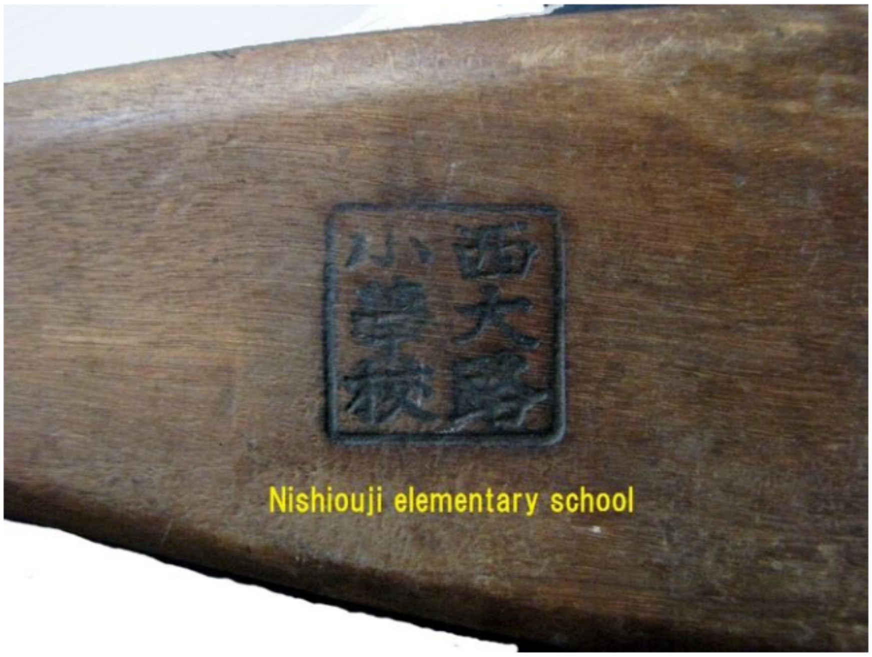
This Japanese training rifle is made entirely out of wood and is 56 inches long. This is considerable longer than the standard military arm. It is approximately the same length as the Type 99 with a bayonet mounted. Because of this I suspect that this was made late in WWII when steel was very scarce. It has Japanese four characters on the right side of the butt stock. It is said to have been brought home by a US soldier following the WWII.



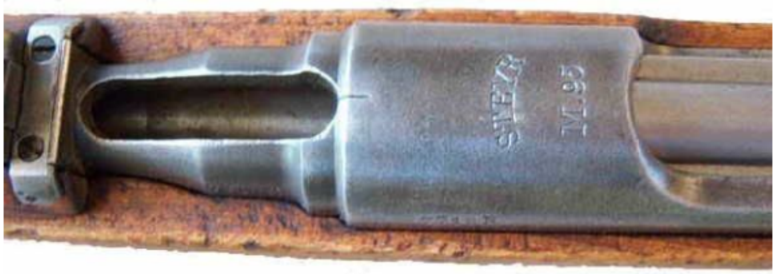
Wooden Drill Rifle



This drill rifle in unusual in several ways. It is branded with the NISHIOUJI elementary school stamp. It is 53 inches long, which is much longer than a normal military rifle. It must have been this length to replicate the length of a rifle with a bayonet. It must have been made for upper level grade school students.



Steyr M. 95 Drill Rifle

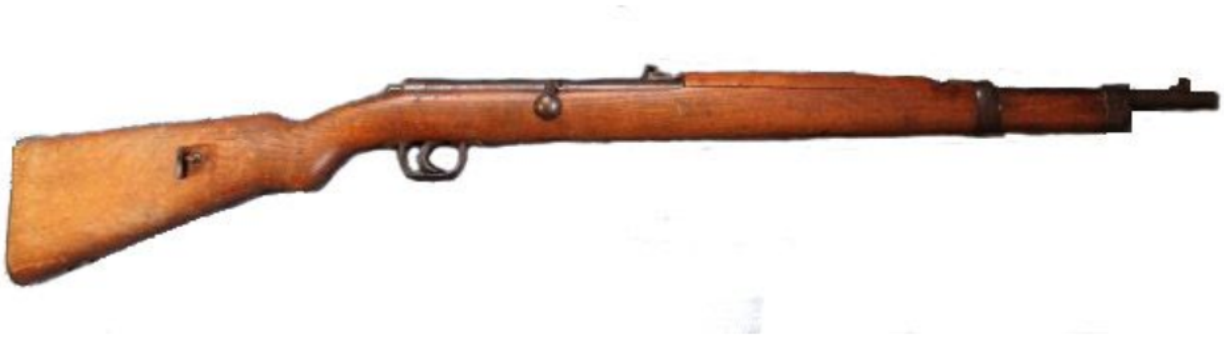


The Steyr rifles were the primary rifle of Austria/Hungary during WWI and they were also used by Bulgaria and Greece. Rifles surrendered to Italy after WWI were used by Italy during WWII.

The work done on this drill rifle appears to have been an arsenal conversion. There is a large well finished slot in chamber area of the barrel. This is really the only visual way of identifying that the rifle has been altered. It is uncertain if the bolt has been altered in any way. Due to the design of the action it is very unlikely that the firing pin has been removed. In all probability all that was altered was to remove the tip of the firing pin.

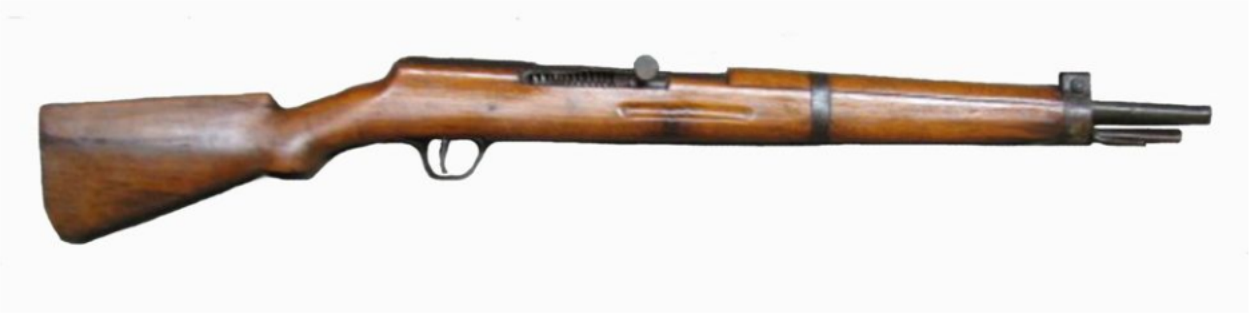
There are no marks to identify when or where this work was done. These rifles have been on the surplus market since WWII so the work could have been done anywhere in the world. I doubt that anyone would have used this approach to produce drill rifles for the civilian market. If I were to guess, I would likely identify it with the Italian military.

Mars 100 German Youth Training Rifle



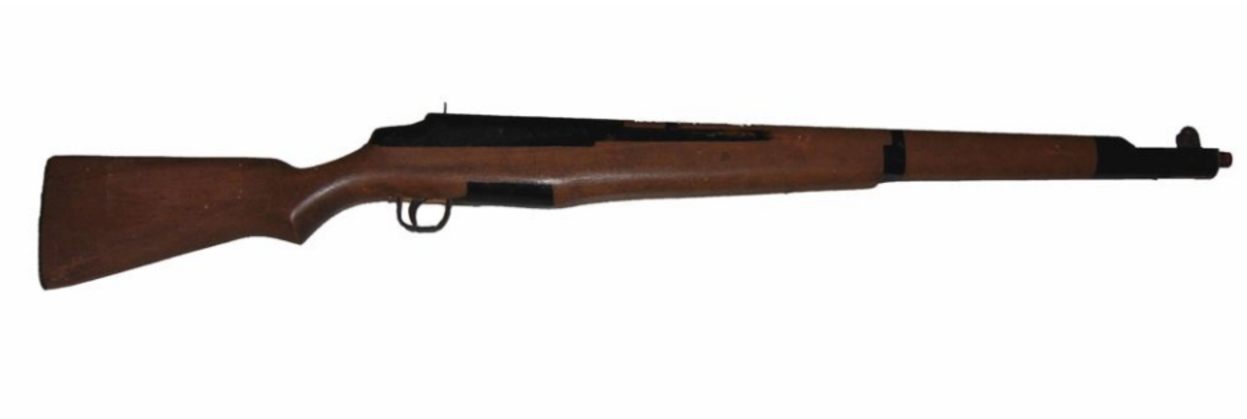
This is a model Mars 100 German Hitler Training Rifle. It has an 18" barrel and has a functional bolt but is non-firing. It is marked Venus-Waffenwerk Zella-Mehlis.

MAS 1936

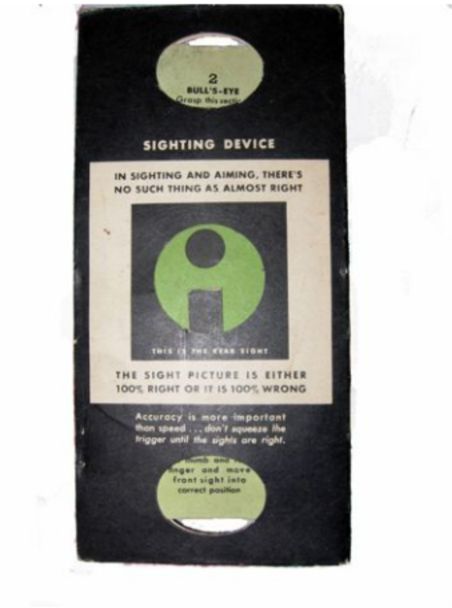


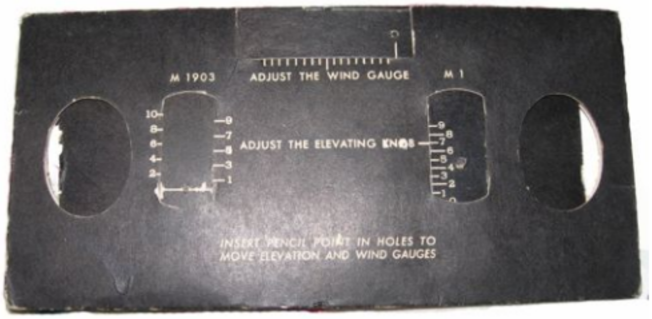
This training rifle is a copy of the French 1936 Mas. The origin is unknown but it probably came from Vietnam. It has a functional striker but does not have a conventional bolt.

Italian Garand



These Garand training rifles were issued to Italian army recruits following WWII to train them in their use. They had been using the much smaller Model 91 rifle prior to being issued surplus Garands. The paper instructions were used to train them in the use of the Garand sights. It is interesting that they used an original Garand front sight but had a very primitive rear sight. The barrel is a short piece of steel tubing. The trigger, trigger guard and butt plate were also made of steel. The stock was made using two 3/4" boards glued together. The wood was light colored and stained a cherry color. The metal parts, action area and barrel bands are painted black. The stock profile is very close to the Garand shape but the contours are less well rounded.


2
BULL'S-EYE
SIGHTING DEVICE
IN SIGHTING AND AIMING, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS ALMOST RIGHT
THIS IS THE REAR SIGHT
THE SIGHT PICTURE IS EITHER 100% RIGHT OR IT IS 100% WRONG
Accuracy is more important than speed . . . don't squeeze the trigger until the sights are right.
front sight into correct position

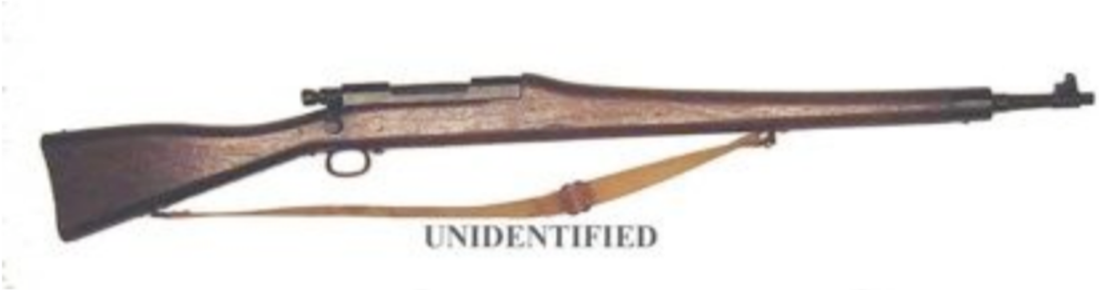

M 1903
ADJUST THE WIND GAUGE
M 1
ADJUST THE ELEVATING KNOB
INSERT PENCIL POINT IN HOLES TO MOVE ELEVATION AND WIND GAUGES

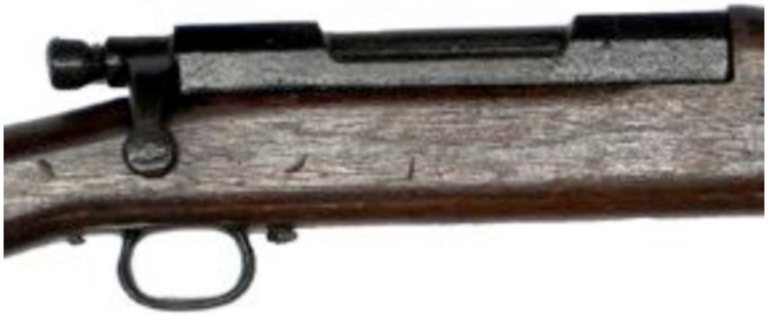
Part 1c: Unidentified Rifles

Unidentified Drill Rifles

There are a number of unidentified drill rifles that have similar characteristics. They are generally unmarked in any way that would identify their origin. They are generally machine-made and not one-of-a-kind, although individual specimens of the same model may not be identical. They also may be conversions of obsolete military rifles that were intended for non-military applications. It appears that in most cases they were manufactured between 1900 and 1925. Their variety makes them interesting. At this late date, it is unlikely that most of these will ever be identified.

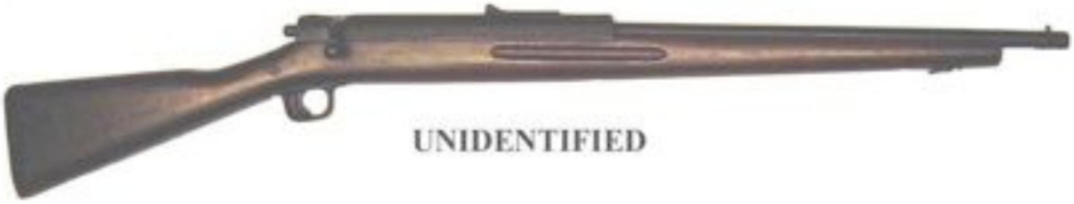
Unidentified

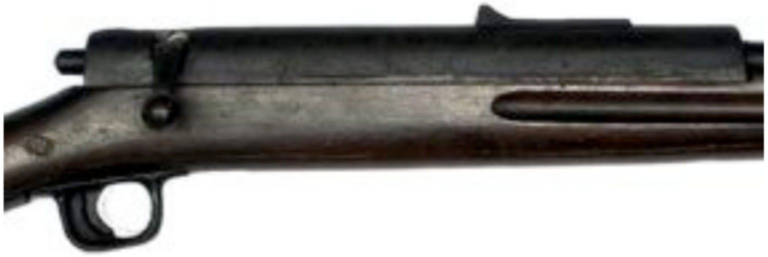




All of the metal parts on this drill rifle are made of cast iron and none of them are movable. It is well made and a close replica of the 1903 Springfield rifle. The number 238 is stamped into the wood in front of the forward sling swivel. Another rifle of the same make has the number 303 stamped into the wood on top of the butt stock close to the butt plate. I would speculate that they are serial numbers. There are no other identifying marks.

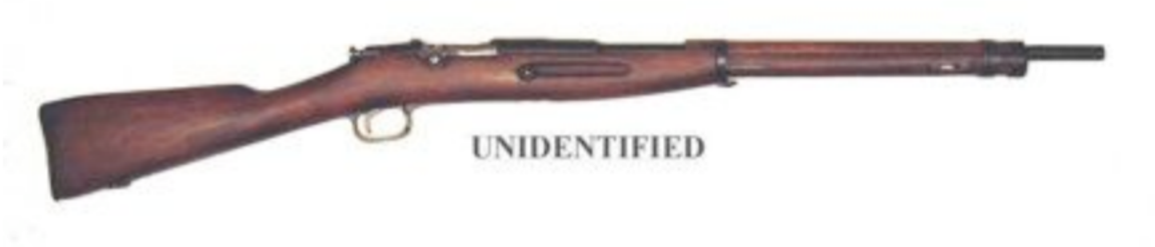
Unidentified

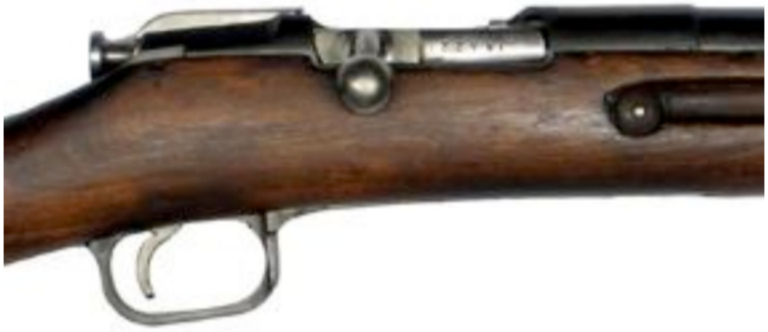




The receiver of this drill rifle is made of cast iron. The bolt is made from a ½" diameter steel rod. A bolt stop controls the travel and rotation of the bolt. The barrel is made of a wooden dowel and the front sight is made of wire. There is no butt plate but there is a narrow piece of wood inset vertically into the butt to strengthen the area. The non-movable trigger is also made of cast iron. There is a stamp on the side of the stock near the grip but it is so small that it is unintelligible. There are no other identifying marks

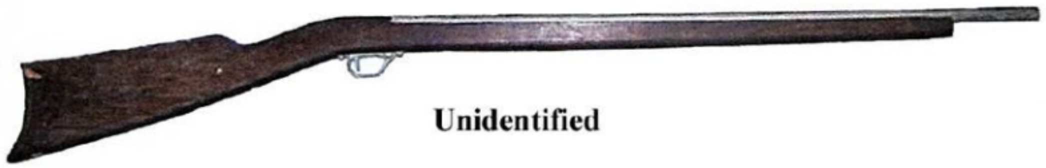
Unidentified





This drill rifle was made from an 1891 Russian Mosin rifle. It appears to have been made to look as much as possible like the 1903 Springfield rifle. It may have been a Bannerman conversion that was further modified. The magazine has been cut off and the trigger guard reshaped. All unnecessary parts have been removed and the firing pin cut off. Both front and rear sights have been removed and the barrel shortened.

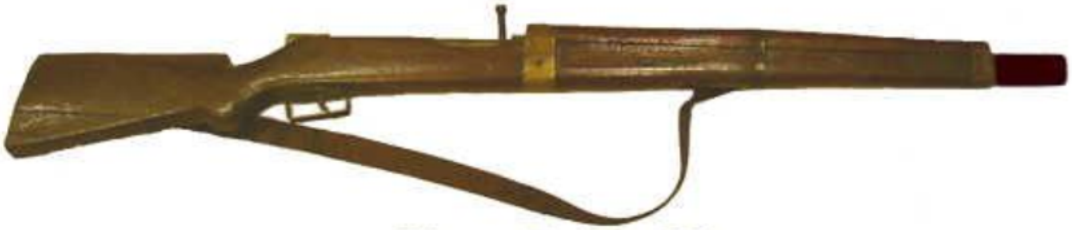
Unidentified



Unidentified

This rifle is unmarked and is difficult to place with any certainty. It has the appearance of a non-military rifle but it is 43" long, which is long for a toy. It has a wooden barrel and no lock mechanism or barrel bands. If it had more detail I would suspect that it was probably a toy. It appears to be machine made, which means that it is unlikely it is one of a kind. It has many of the characteristics of a drill rifle and it could have been produced for youth drill corps. It has been included here as a drill rifle to encourage collectors not to overlook such specimens but to retain them for further study.

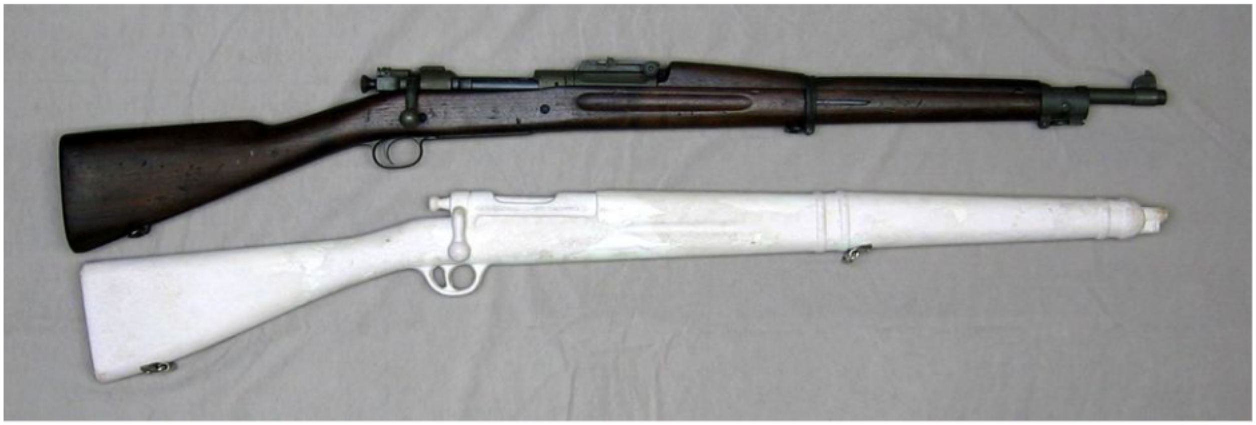
Vietcong

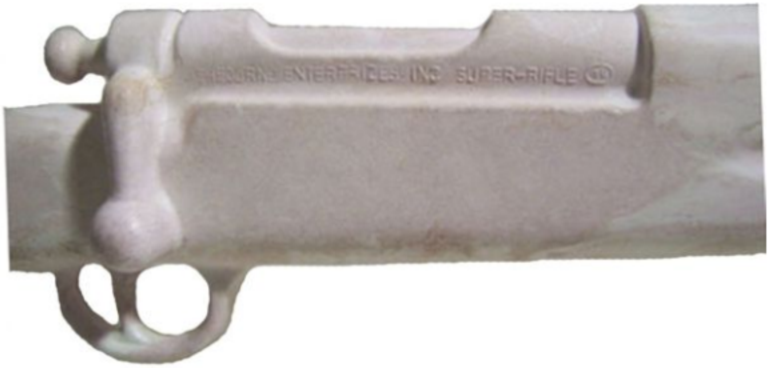


Vietcong Training Rifle

This is a war relic from the Vietnam War. It is obviously handmade and is only marginally functional.

Shbourne Enterprizes Inc. Super-Rifle



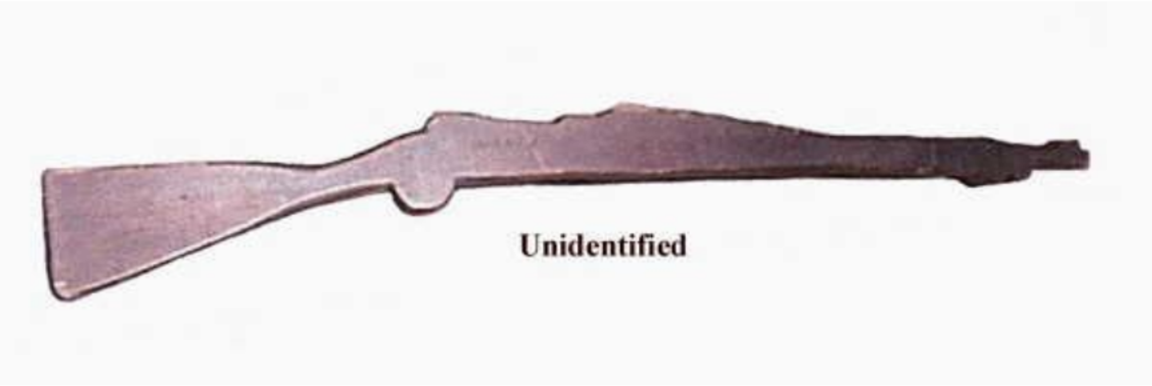


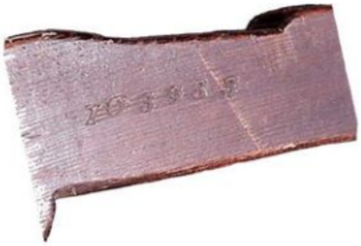
I have been unable to locate any information relating to SHBOURNE ENTERPRIZES INC. (Correct spelling). I suspect that they were in some way related to the plastics industry. This drill rifle was molded from a plastic resin that has a white color with streaks of very pale pink. It appears that it was generally patterned after the 1903 Springfield rifle. I suspect that it was produced after1960. Due to the expense of producing a mold it probably was intended to be produced in some quantity.

There are very significant dimensional differences between this rifle and the 03 Springfield. This seem strange to me as it would have been no more difficult to produce a mold that more closely resembled the 03 Springfield. The only reason that I can think of for the different features is that they wished to have handling characteristics that were different from the 03 Springfield. This rifle also has a different balance point than the 03. It is possible that it was designed for teaching drill maneuvers to younger students as it only weighs 4 pounds.

It has a thickness of 1.25" as compared to 1.75" of the 03 Springfield. It has a 1.5" longer length of pull which greatly changes the appearance and handling characteristics of the rifle. The most unusual feature are the raised ridges near where the barrel bands would be on the 03 Springfield. The only reason that I can see for this feature would be to control the placement of your hands when handling the rifle. This rifle carries two chrome plated sling swivels that appear identical to those used by the Parris Mfg. Co. These may not be original as they would interfere with handling the rifle. The mold registry is very good and the surface finish is smooth. All taken together, this is one of the most unusual drill rifles I have ever located.

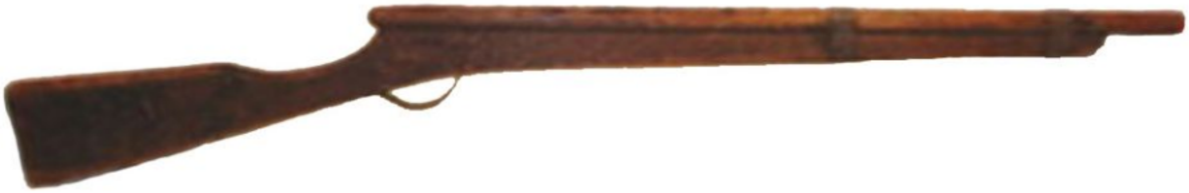
Unidentified





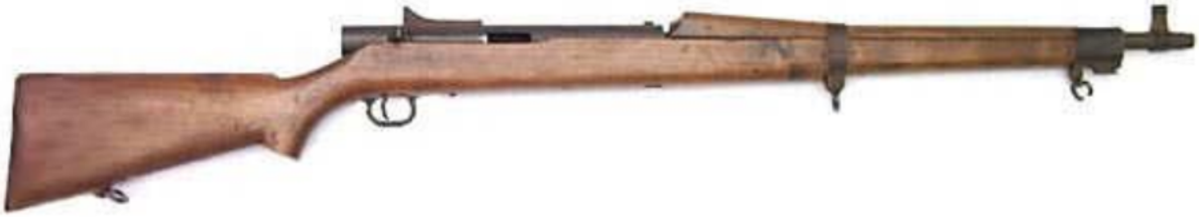
This wooden drill rifle is interesting in several ways. No information has surfaced to give any insight into who may have produced this wooden drill rifle. It is entirely made of wood but it has a very accurate profile of the 1903 Springfield rifle. There is a very high probability that these were produced between 1915 and 1920. On the right side of the receiver area of the stock the number 103933 has been stamped into the wood. Since there are no other identifying marks, I would presume that this is a serial number. If so, there were more of these drill rifles produced than any other similar type that has surfaced to date. To have produced and sold this number of wooden drill rifles they must have advertised widely during the WWI period. It is hoped that an advertisement from this period will be found that will identify this drill rifle.

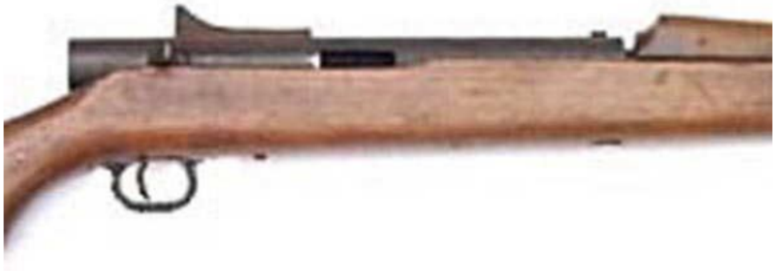
Unidentified



This is another example of an early drill rifle that is very simple yet probably too long to be a toy. It is 40-1/2" long and has a wooden barrel and metal bands. It has the appearance of a musket rather than a modern bolt action rifle. I suspect that this was designed for drill purposes at a boys military school.

Unidentified



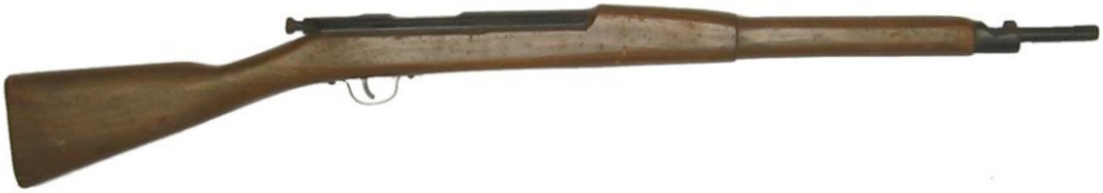


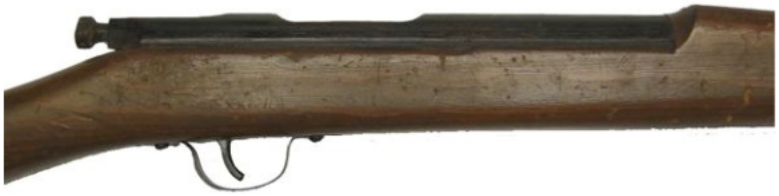
This unidentified drill rifle is obviously patterned after the 1903 Springfield. It is close to the same overall length and has a stock profile similar to the Springfield. It has a stacking swivel and two sling swivels and the front barrel band has a bayonet lug. However, the receiver and sights are significantly different. The receiver is abnormally long which makes the upper hand guard much shorter than the Springfield.

The receiver has a bolt with a bolt handle that can be pulled straight back to engage a sear mechanism attached to the trigger. When the trigger is pulled it allows the bolt to spring forward. The bolt does not rotate. The fixed sights are much higher than the sights on the Springfield and are a different shape.

This is one of those rifles that is hard to classify. It has many of the characteristics of a training rifle but it probably was designed as a drill rifle. There are no markings on the rifle that can be used to identify the maker. I suspect that it was made between 1910 and 1930.

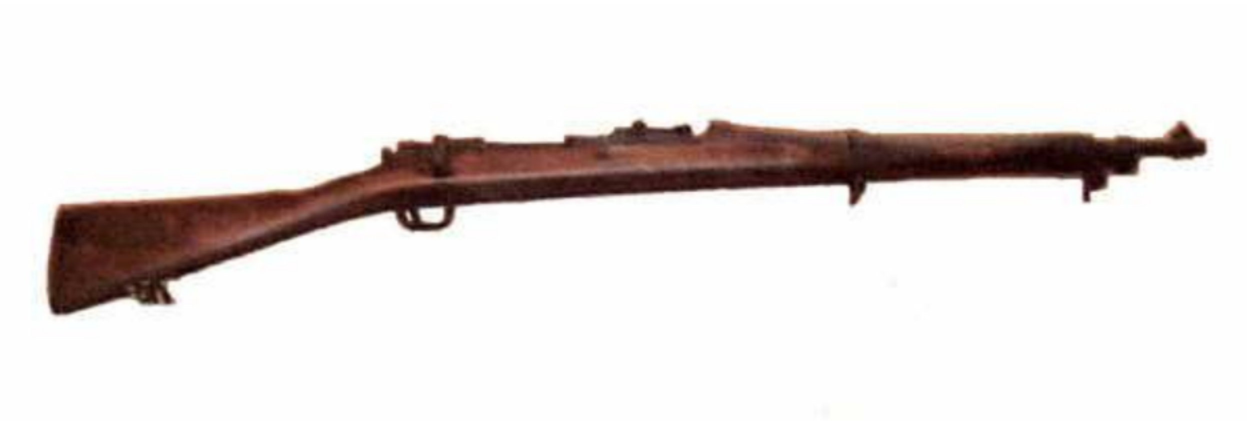
Unidentified





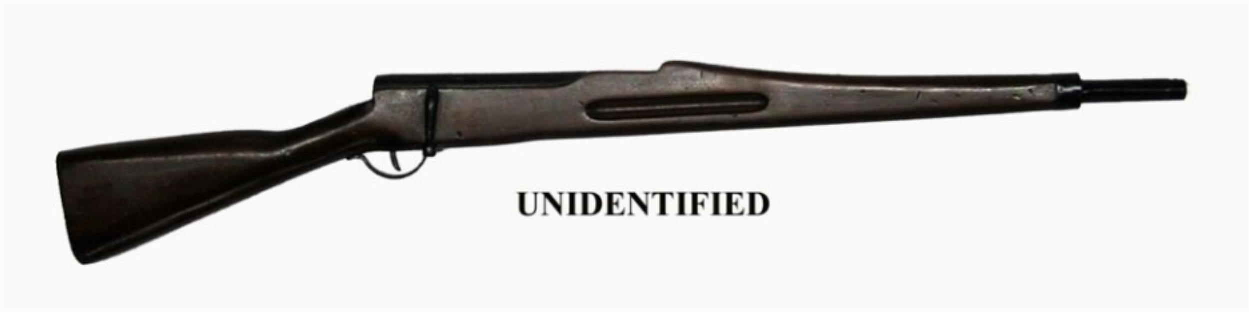
This drill rifle is typical of many of the wooden models that were produced between 1900-1920. It is obviously machine made, but there are no identifying marks of any of the parts. It is unique in several ways. The most obvious is that it has no sights or bolt handle. Of all of the drill rifles of this class that I have had the opportunity to see, it has the most accurate stock profile and thickness. The stock and receiver are made of pine and it is very light in weight. The receiver and cocking knob are a separate piece that was glued in place. The wooden parts are painted appropriate colors. The trigger assembly is the most unusual feature. This is made from steel and has a non-functional spring-loaded movable trigger. One has to wonder why they used such accurate detail and omitted a bolt handle.

Unidentified



This drill rifle is a very close replica of the 1903 Springfield. Although it has no moving parts, the receiver and bolt are more like the Springfield than any other replica that I have seen to date. It has all of the features of the Springfield and they appear to be the appropriate size and in the correct location. All of the metal parts are made of cast iron and they have not been polished to a smooth finish. The stock appears to be made of pine and stained to look like walnut. It is unfortunate that it has no identifying marks.

Unidentified

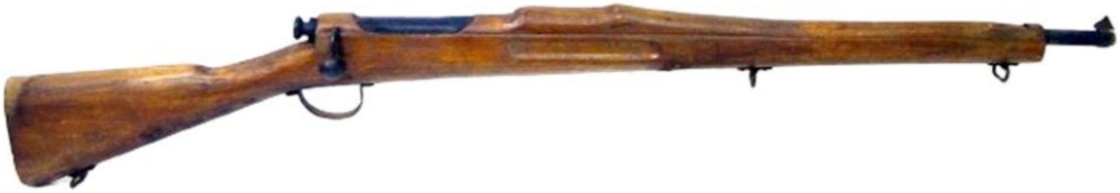


This wooden drill rifle was machine made and is generally patterned after the 1903 Springfield rifle. The barrel and receiver are an integral part of the wooden stock and are painted black. The stock is a light colored hard wood that has been stained a walnut color.

The metal parts are a rather crude trigger and trigger guard, a poorly shaped bolt handle, a barrel band and a sleeve on the end of the barrel. It also has a checkered steel butt plate that is attached with two screws. This is obviously a production item that must have been purchased separately but it appears to be original with the gun. It has no moving parts or any form of sights.

There are no marking of any kind on this drill rifle. It was probably produced in a small quantity for parade or drill purposes prior to WWII.

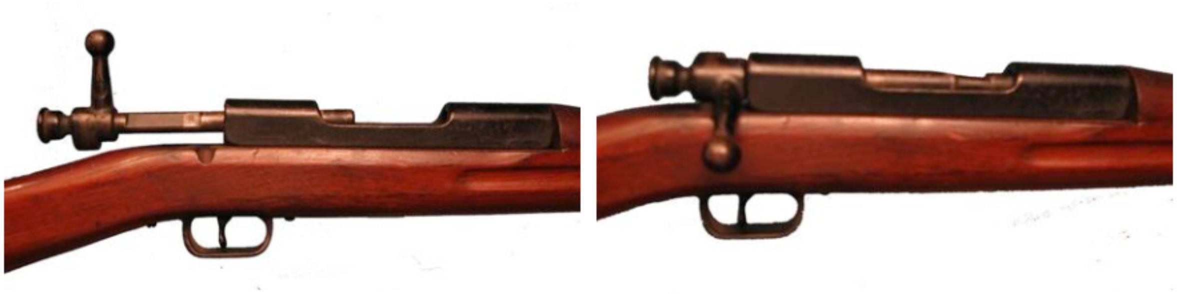
Unidentified

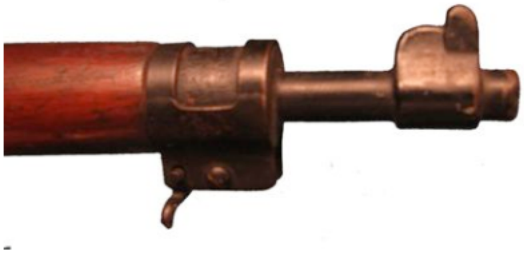


This drill rifle is a close replica of the1903 Springfield. It is unmarked in any way and has no moving parts. By virtue of the fact that it has no trigger or rear sight, I would suspect that originally it had no front sight and that the current front sight was added at some later date. Like many of this class of drill rifles you can only speculate about its origin and date of manufacture. It appears to have been produced using machine tools and may have been produced in a small quantity. I would guess that it was made prior to WWI. It generally has a superior shape and detail than most of the all wood drill rifles.

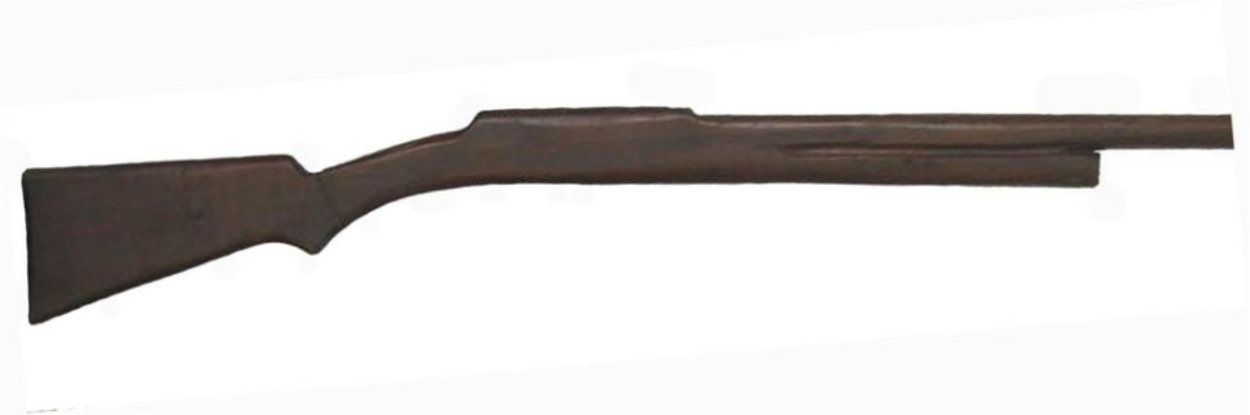
Unidentified

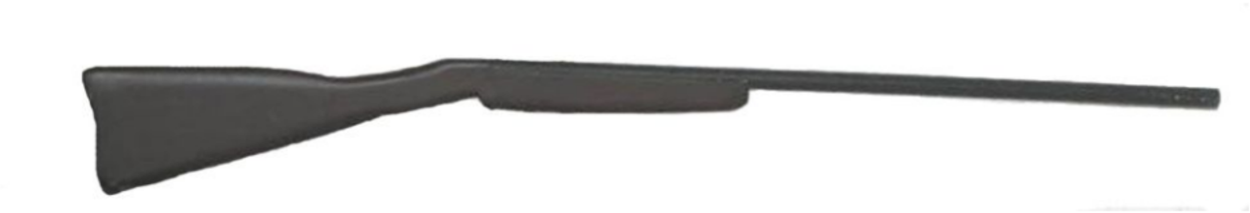
I am indebted to Harold Hopp for the pictures of this training rifle. It is similar in shape to the 03 Springfield. The receiver, trigger guard and front sight are very similar to parts on another drill rifle shown in the unidentified section of this site. It differs in that it has a functional bolt and trigger. It is possible that these are two different models that were made by the same company. All of the metal parts are all made of cast iron. The stock is well formed and finished. It is unfortunate that it has no identifying marks. I suspect that it was made in the 1920's.





Wooden Shotguns



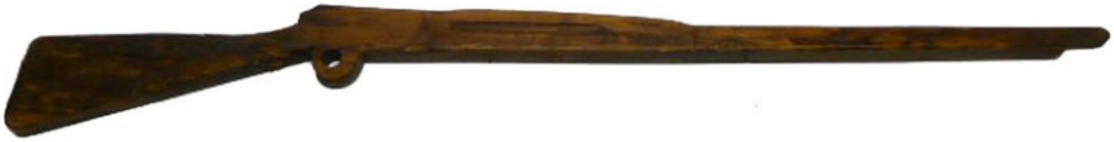


I am uncertain as how to classify these wooden guns. It is very unusual to have shotguns used as a pattern for a drill or training rifle. On the first gun the barrel is cut off by the photograph. The gun has an overall length of 49 inches. It is a very close replica of the Remington model 11 auto loading shotgun.

The second gun has the appearance of a single shot shotgun and is 47 inches long. Both of these guns came from the same source and are probably the same age. It is possible that they were made by the same person.

I suspect that they are one of a kind and were probably used as a prop in a play, pageant or parade.

Wooden Krag Drill Rifle



I am indebted to Errol Severe for the photographs of this interesting wooden drill rifle. It has no exceptional features except that it is one of the very few early drill rifles that are identified with markings stamped into the wood. The following is stamped into the wood on the right side of the butt stock.

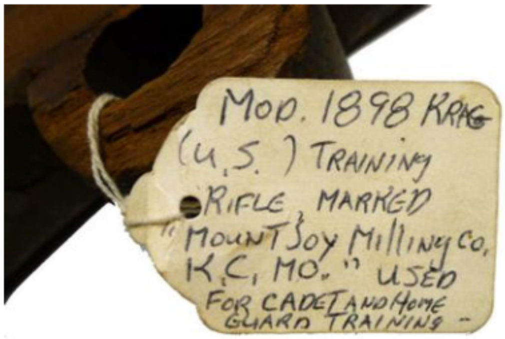
?? JOY MILL CO. K.C. MO

Ahead of the word JOY there was another word or letters which has been damaged beyond recognition. It also has a large letter A stamped into the wood on the same side of the stock. This drill rifle was purchased from a young man who's grandfather was Commander of the Sandia Army Base. It is presumed that the grandfather placed the tag on the gun.

The attached paper tag indicates that the marking stands for the Mount Joy Milling Company of Kansas City, Missouri. It also indicates that the drill rifle was patterned after the 1898 US Krag rifle. Careful examination of the stock profile would support this assertion. The radius on the corners of the stock and the smooth finger groove would indicate that this was machine made. From this I would assume that they were produced in some quantity.

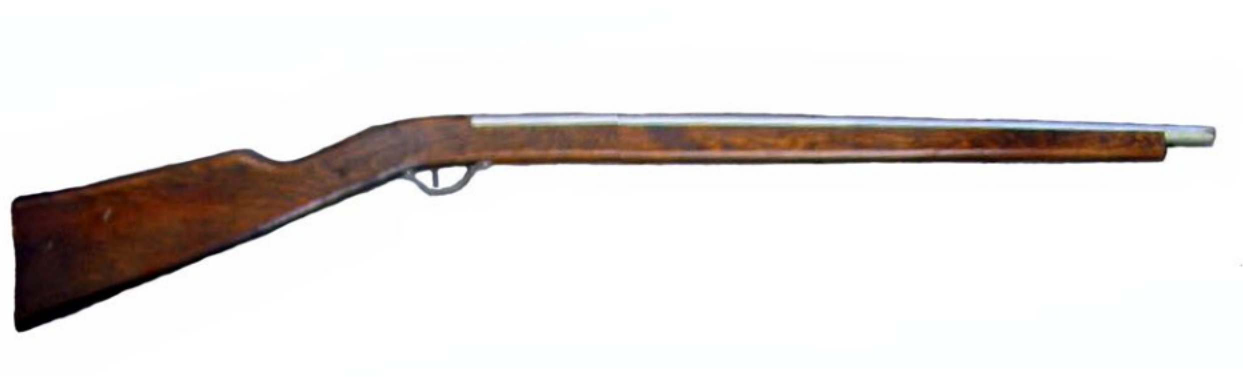
I have been unable to locate any information relating to a Mount Joy Milling Company in Kansas City. However, it appears the family name "Mountjoy" is not uncommon in the area. The term milling company usually implies that they made wooden windows and doors for the construction trade. If so, they would have had the necessary equipment to produce such a drill rifle. I suspect that this company was owned by someone with the family name of Mountjoy.

This very simple wooden drill rifle was probably produced for use by military schools, drill training or for parade purposes. It would have had no military application. Because of the Krag pattern I would guess that it was produced about 1900.

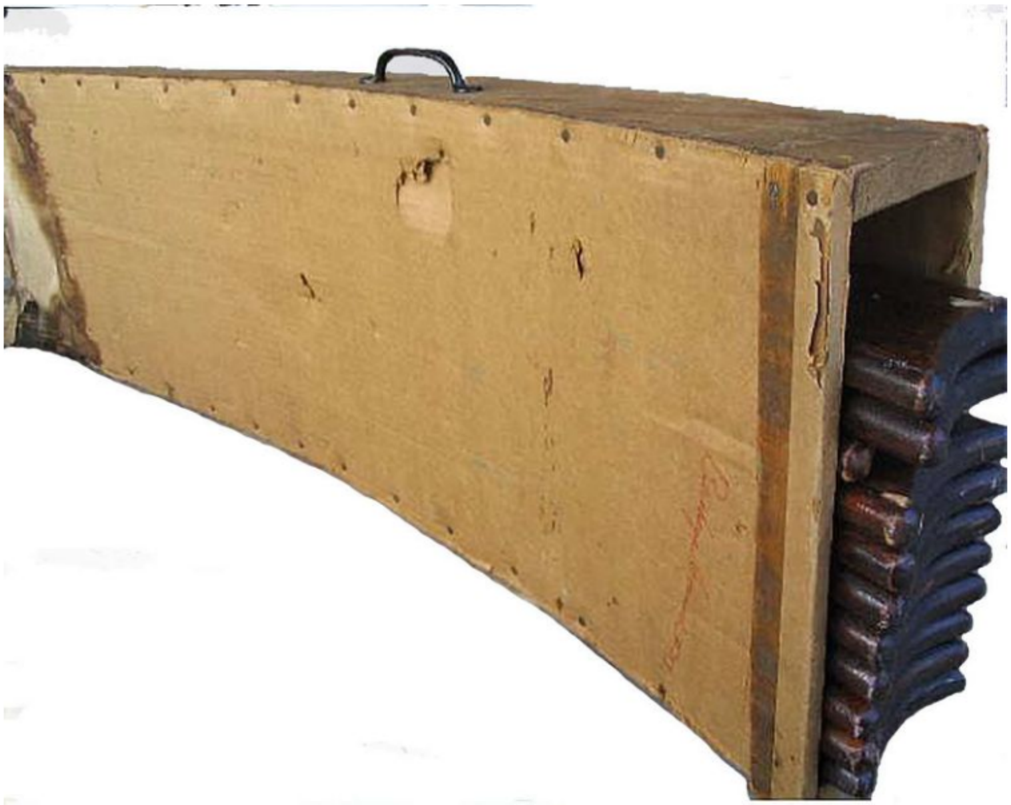


MOD. 1898 KRAG
(U.S.) TRAINING
RIFLE, MARKED
"MOUNT JOY MILLING CO,
K.C. MO." USED
FOR CADET AND HOME
GUARD TRAINING -

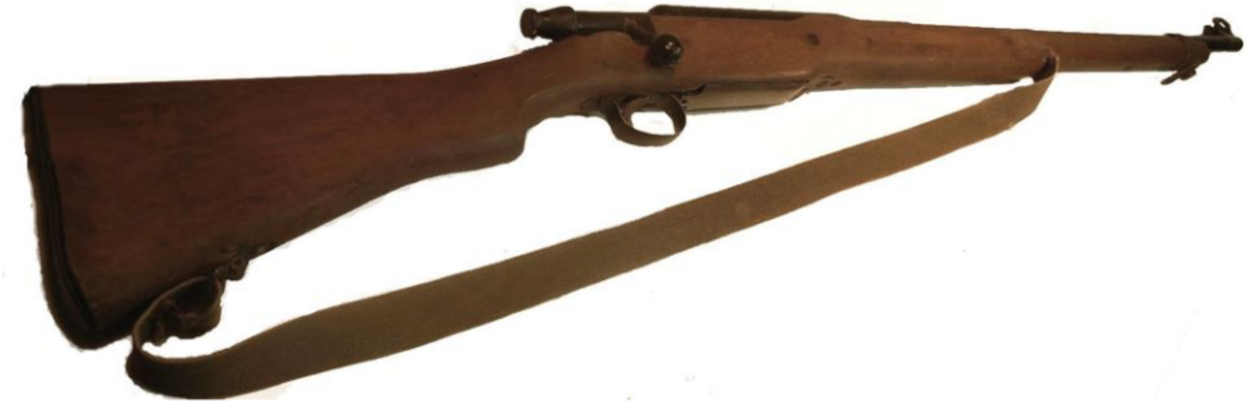
Wooden Drill Rifle Set



This is an unusual collectors set. It has eleven wooden drill rifles of a very common pattern with the original carrying case. The rifles are about 40 inches in length, which would be appropriate for young cadets. The rifles and case are unmarked. The only metal part is the trigger guard. I suspect that these were produced for a drill group like the Boys Brigade.

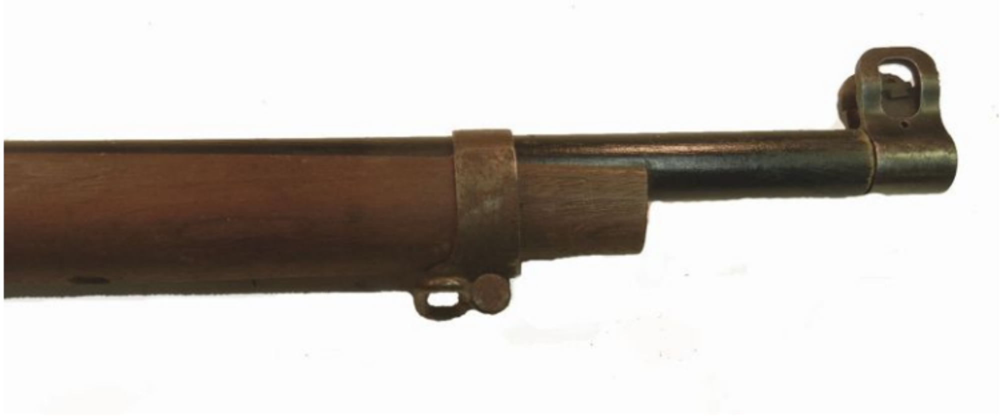


Enfield Drill Rifle

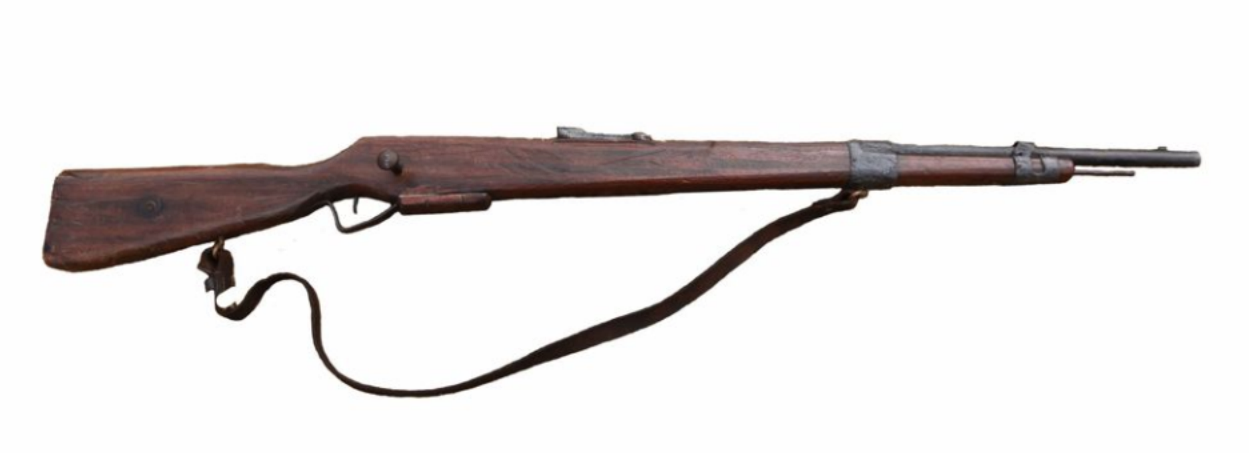


Two of these drill rifles have surfaced. They were made by using pattern 17 Enfield parts. They were probably made shortly after the end of WWII when surplus parts were readily available. This type of conversion would have been prohibitively expensive after surplus parts became unavailable. One of these came from the DeLaSalle Military Academy which was in operation from the 1930's through the 1950's.

The original Enfield barrel and action have been replaced with wooden parts that are identical on both specimens. This would indicate that the maker had production equipment available. One of the specimens has no front sight and one has an original Enfield front sight. Neither have an upper hand guard. None of the parts are movable. The uniquely shaped triggers are identical and were made from a flat piece of steel. The front barrel band is not from a Pattern 14 or 17 Enfield rifle. Both appear to have had a simple web carrying strap rather than a conventional sling. There are no identifying marks on these specimens and it is unknown who may have produced them.

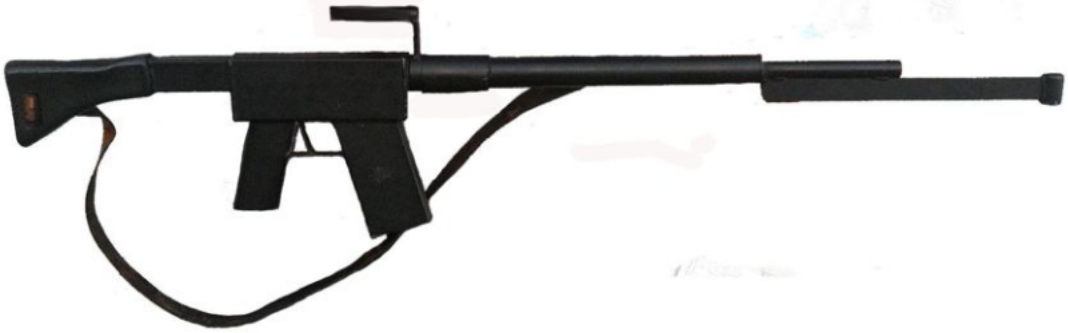


Home Guard Drill Rifle



This is a typical drill rifle of the British Home Guard during WW II. These rifles were frequently made from a 6 inch wide plank which resulted in a drop in the butt stock that was less than normal for military rifles. The makers did not have a SMLE rifle to copy so they vary considerably in shape. This rifle has several unique features. It has a straight wooden bolt handle attached to the side of the stock and it has sheet lead barrel bands. The trigger guard also has a unique shape which probably resulted from not having appropriate bending equipment.

B.A.R. Training Rifle



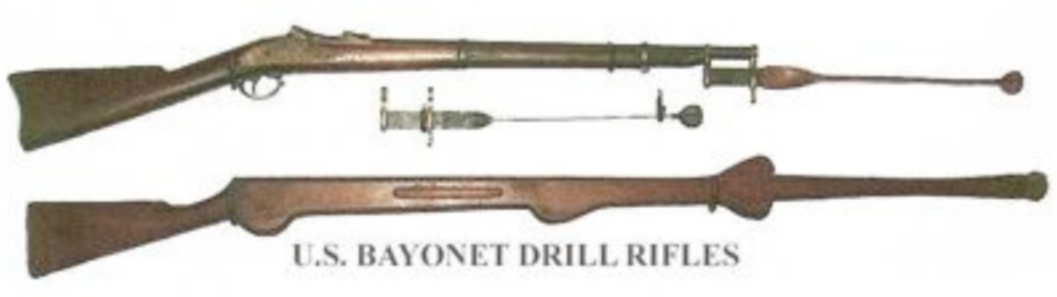
This unmarked training rifle is somewhat unusual. It is made of steel but has a composition butt stock that would indicate that is of recent origin. The butt stock has several numbers molded into the interior openings in the stock. This would tend to indicate that there this was to be made in some quantity. It also has a fake bayonet with a rounded point similar to other training rifles used for bayonet training. It weighs about 15 pounds and is approximately the same length as an original B.A.R. At this weight and size it would be highly impractical for use in bayonet training.

This may have been made up for "show" and never intended for training purposes. It is unlikely that it was used by the US military.

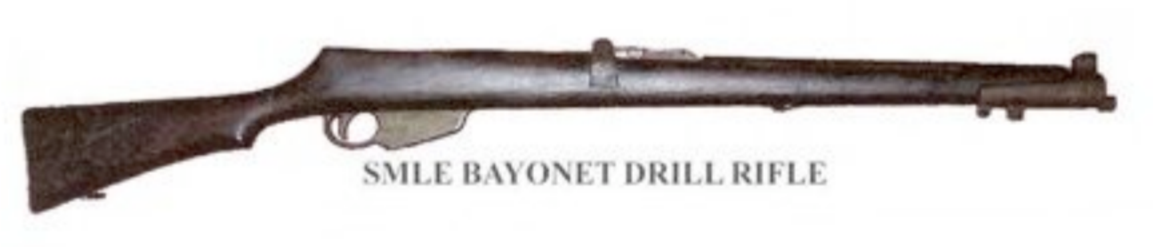
Part 1d: Miscellaneous Rifles

Bayonet Fencing Rifles

The following are examples of fencing rifles that were used by the United States and Great Britain. The first two illustrations show examples that are the same length and weight as the 1903 Springfield. The second illustration is a close replica of the SMLE used by Great Britain.

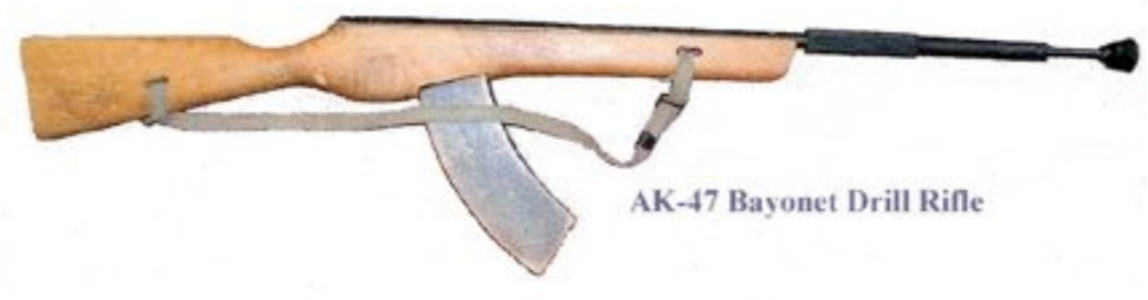


U.S. BAYONET DRILL RIFLES



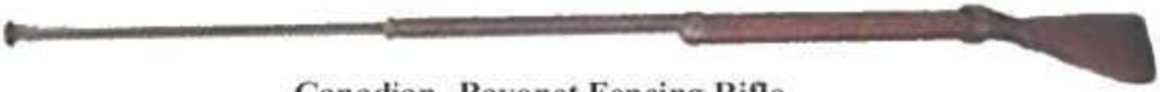
SMLE BAYONET DRILL RIFLE

This bayonet drill rifle has no markings but is probably Eastern European and possibly East German. The design of the sling mounting seems to be similar to the Russian Mosin. The end of the barrel has a padded knob and the shaft is spring loaded.

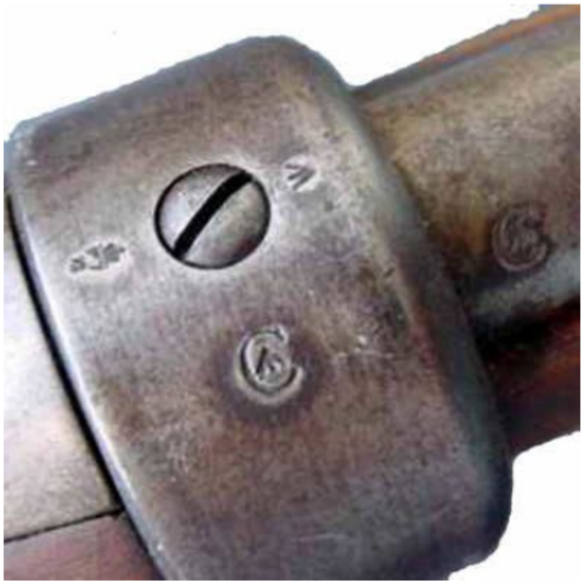


AK-47 Bayonet Drill Rifle

The bayonet fencing rifle shown below was made by the English firm of Webley & Scott in 1914. It has Canadian markings on the barrel assembly. The long forward extension is spring loaded and retracts into the barrel assembly on impact.



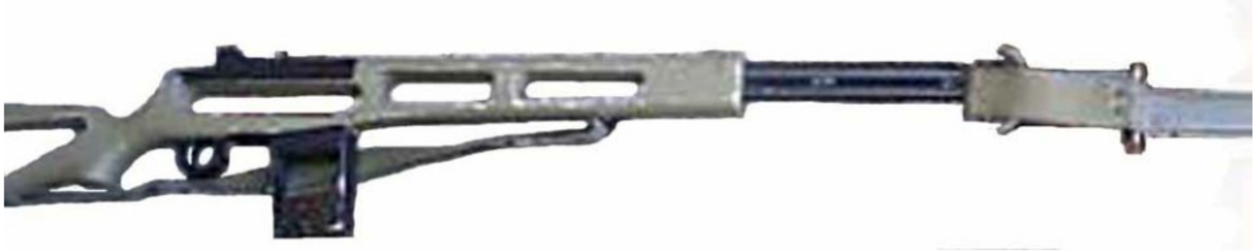
Canadian Bayonet Fencing Rifle

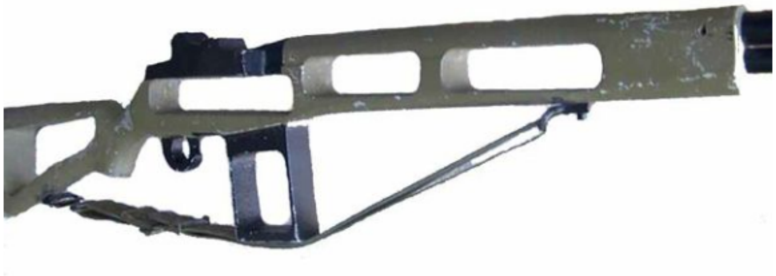


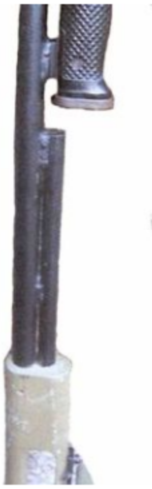
Very little information has surfaced relative to this training rifle. This skeletonized rifle is made of aluminum and closely resembles the M 14 military rifle. A photograph exists that shows these rifles being used by Marines for bayonet drill practice. It has no moving parts but can carry the standard M6 service bayonet. It seems unusual that it was not supplied with a special padded bayonet if it was specifically designed for bayonet drill. The rifle is unmarked but was probably made between 1957 and 1963 when the M 14 was being used by the US military.

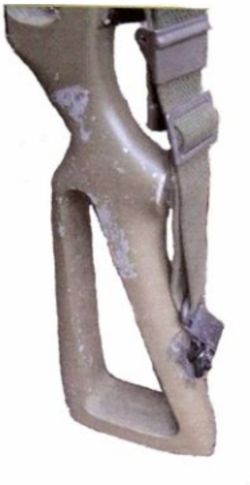
Since this training rifle is made of aluminum, I would suspect that it was also used in situations where the rifle would be subjected to wet conditions. It is also possible that an aluminum casting was the most economical way of producing a training rifle for whatever the need might have been. There is an additional rod below the barrel that is not typical of the M14 rifle. I suspect that this rod was designed to reinforce the rather slender aluminum barrel which would have been susceptible to bending. The cut outs in the aluminum stock appear to have been made and located to replicate the weight and balance of the M14 military rifle.

Although this rifle does not meet the general requirements of a training rifle, it may have met very specialized training needs. I will classify it as a bayonet drill rifle rather than a training rifle until further information surfaces.



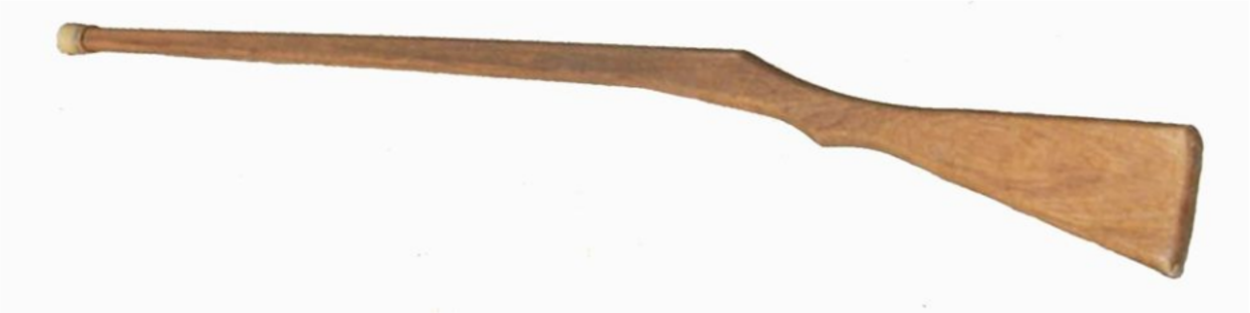


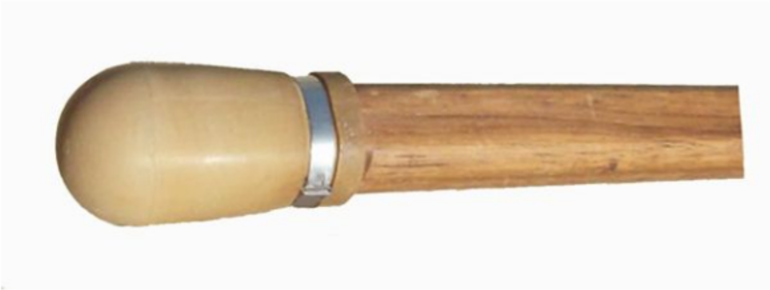




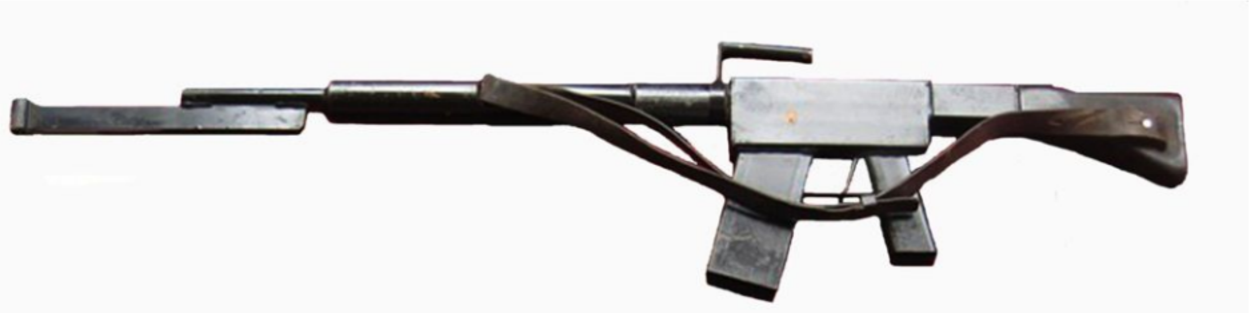
This style of wooden fencing rifles are used in martial arts Juken (wooden bayonet) and Mokuju (wooden rifle). They are 53 1/2 inches long and have a rubber tip for protection. These rifles appear to be made from 1 inch thick hickory.

These may have been used in the past for bayonet training by the US Army and Marines.





This Model PE57 Swiss Bayonet Training Rifle is made entirely of metal and is obviously very durable. It is a fairly close replica of the SIG semiautomatic Assault Rifle that was developed in the 1960's.



Part 2: CURRENT PRODUCTION

There are a variety of drill and training rifles being produced today. Most of them have very high detail due to modern production techniques relating to the injection molding of plastic materials.

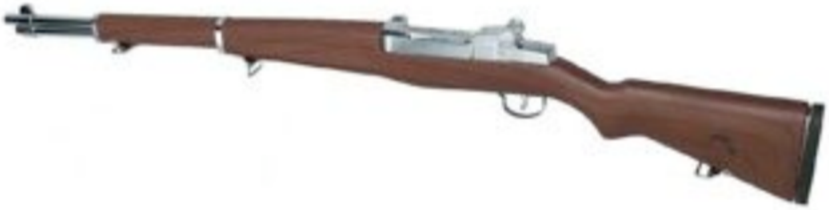
There is a category called Airsoft Guns. The sport of Airsoft started in Japan in the 1980's. In Japan it was illegal to own firearms but there was considerable interest in them, so a company started producing spring-powered replicas of firearms that fired 6mm plastic balls. Since that time the Airsoft sport has become popular all over the world. These Airsoft guns are very highly detailed and can cost over a thousand dollars. Although many of these Airsoft guns could be used for training purposes, they fall outside the scope of this study due the fact that they fire a projectile.

Currently there are a number of retail outlets selling non-firing replica firearms. These plastic replicas range from the flintlock era to modern firearms. They are being used in movies, TV and theater productions. There is also some small interest by collectors of specific firearm models. There is no evidence that they are being used for drill or training purposes and therefore are not included in this study.

Parris - 30

The Parris Manufacturing Co. is still producing a drill rifle constructed from wood and metal. These rifles are covered in detail in another section of this study.

DrillAmerica M1 Garand Replica

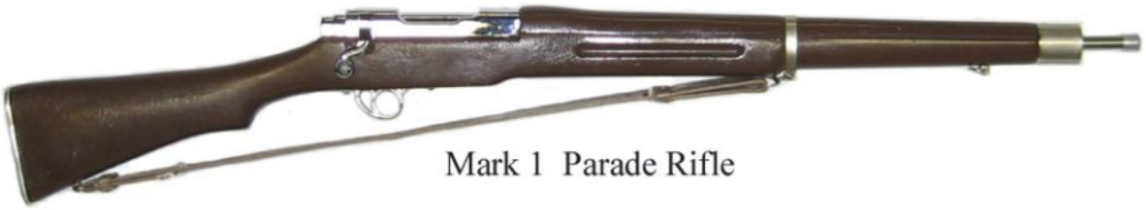


This drill rifle is manufactured and sold by Glendale Industries. They are located in Northvale, NJ and sell a broad line of parade items. Their web site is www.ParadeStore.com. They have been very generous in sharing information and a quality photograph of the Garand Replica.

Their M1 Garand is the only replica drill rifle that is accurately detailed and also weighted to provide the same handling characteristics as the original rifle. Most other drill rifles are much lighter in weight, which greatly changes their handling characteristics. The production of this drill rifle grew out of an expressed need for a high quality Drill or Parade rifle. The first version of this rifle was introduced in 2002 and since that time has been improved based on customers' suggestions. It is made of a high-impact plastic and can be purchased with either a fixed or a movable bolt mechanism. The parts that replicate the metal parts on the original rifle have the appearance of being chrome plated. Another notable feature of this rifle is that the metal butt plate and the soft rubber pad are reversible for use indoors or outdoors. The rubber butt pad was designed specifically for use on school gym floors to prevent damage.

Glendale Industries is the sole distributor of this high quality replica of the M1 Garand. At this time they are producing about 5000 units a year.

Mark 1 Parade Rifle



Mark 1 Parade Rifle

The Mark 1 Parade Rifle is advertised as a modified version of the Springfield rifle. However, the stock profile and the bolt handle are more nearly like the Pattern 17 Enfield rifle.

It is only 39 inches long as compared to the 43 inch length of the Springfield or the 46 inch length of the Enfield. I is made of Polystyrene and weighs about 3 1/2 pounds. It is available with a black, white or brown stock. The receiver has the appearance of being chrome plated. The only metal parts are the two barrel bands and the short barrel which is a metal tube. These parts are painted with chrome paint. The Mark 1 has no sights or moving parts.

The Mark 1 is a very light weight parade rifle and is not designed for the abuse given drill rifles. It was obviously designed for its appearance and ease of carrying in parades.

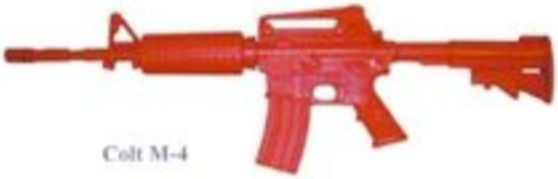
Red Guns

Red Guns are new category. These are sometimes referred to as "rubber guns" but they are made from various plastic materials. This category includes examples of pistols, rifles and shotguns. For the purposes of this study I will only be dealing with rifles.

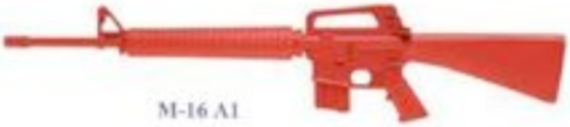
They are such close replicas that they could be easily mistaken for real firearms. To prevent this from happening they are dyed a bright red or blue color. An Australian firm is distributing similar replicas in black color that are nearly impossible to tell from the original firearm. It is uncertain if these would be legal in the United States.

The Red Guns are being used for training purposes by the military, ROTC units and Law Enforcement agencies. They offer the same handling characteristics as the real firearm at a small fraction of the cost.

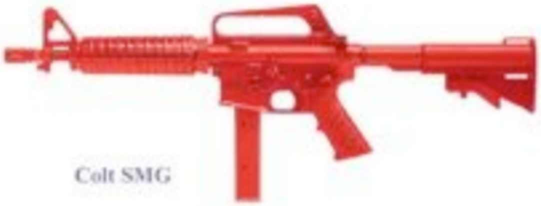
Armament Systems and Procedures, Inc. (ASP, Inc.) is a company that was founded in 1976 by Kevin Thomas Parsons. They are located in Appleton, Wisconsin and produce a wide variety of police and personal defense items as well as the Red and Blue plastic training rifles. These plastic training rifles are made of a patented solid silicon-epoxy resin and have no moving parts. A number of retail outlets are selling Red Guns but it appears that ASP produces all of the Red and Blue Training Rifles. Currently ASP is producing the following training rifle models.



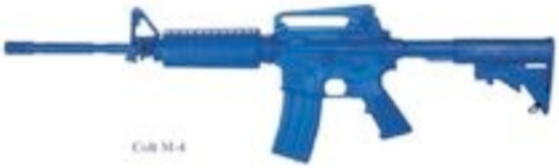
Colt M-4



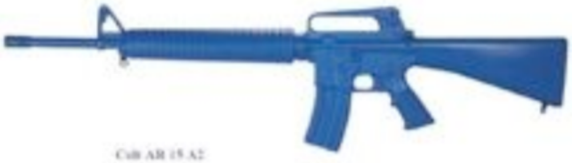
M-16 A1



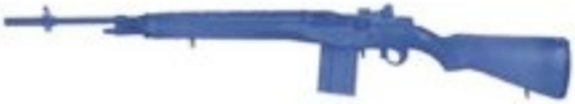
Colt SMG



Colt M-4



Colt AR 15 A2



M-14

“Plastic-Rubber” Training Models

Wellington Surplus Stores in Perth Australia sell a series of black training rifles. At this time it is unknown who actually manufactures these training rifles. They are made of a plastic material but are sold under the name of “Plastic-Rubber”. These rifles have no moving parts. They are currently selling the following training rifle models.

AK-47

M1 Garand

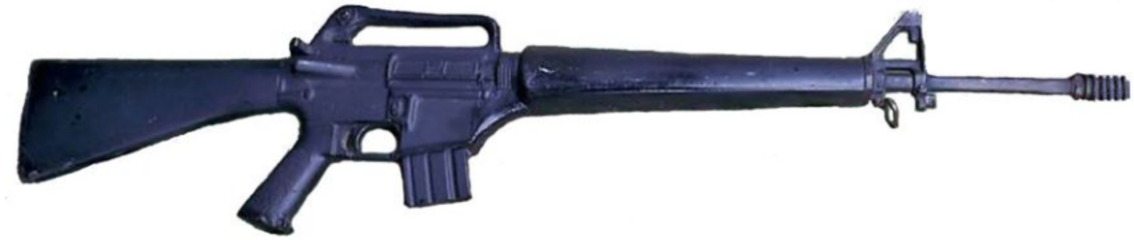
M1 Carbine

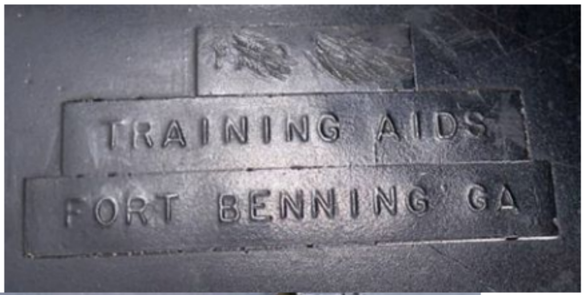
M1 Thompson

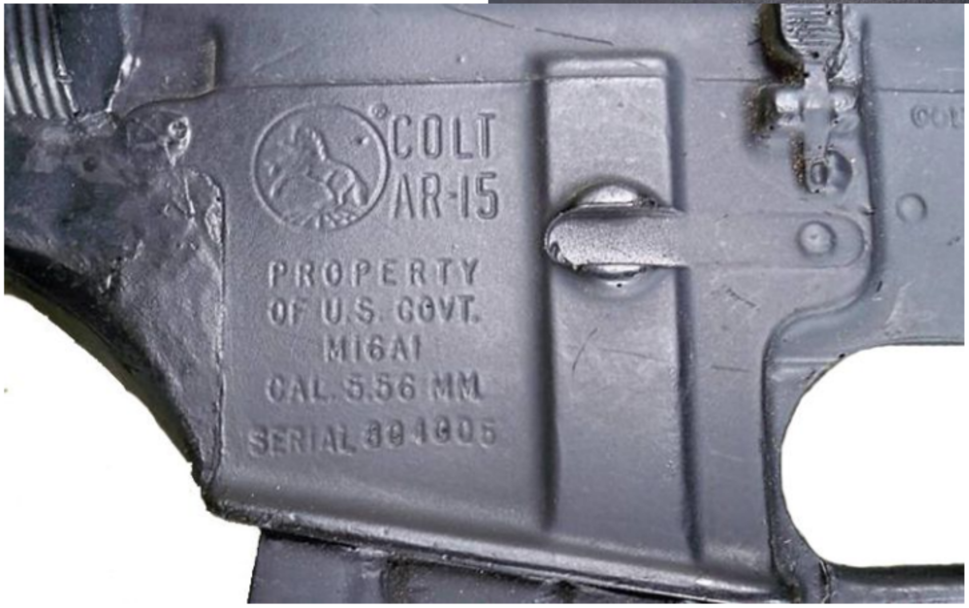
M4 - A1

M16 - A1

“Rubber” M16 A1 Training Rifle







This is a non-firing replica of the M16 A1 military rifle. They are made of a plastic material that is very durable and shows high detail. This rifle was apparently made under contract with the US Army as it is marked Fort Benning Ga. It is interesting to note that some marks have been scratched out from the area just above the Fort Benning name. This was probably a serial number of some sort.

Daisy 1903 Replica Drill Rifle

Daisy 1903 Replica Drill Rifle

In 2003 Daisy Outdoor Products introduced a non-firing drill rifle patterned after the 1903 Springfield Rifle. This rifle was designed specifically for drill purposes and is extremely strong. The black stock is made from a high density plastic material and all other parts are made from steel. It also has an operating bolt and functional sights. It can be purchased with a padded rubber butt plate to prevent floor damage. Although the company identifies this model as a drill rifle it is probably best described as a training rifle.

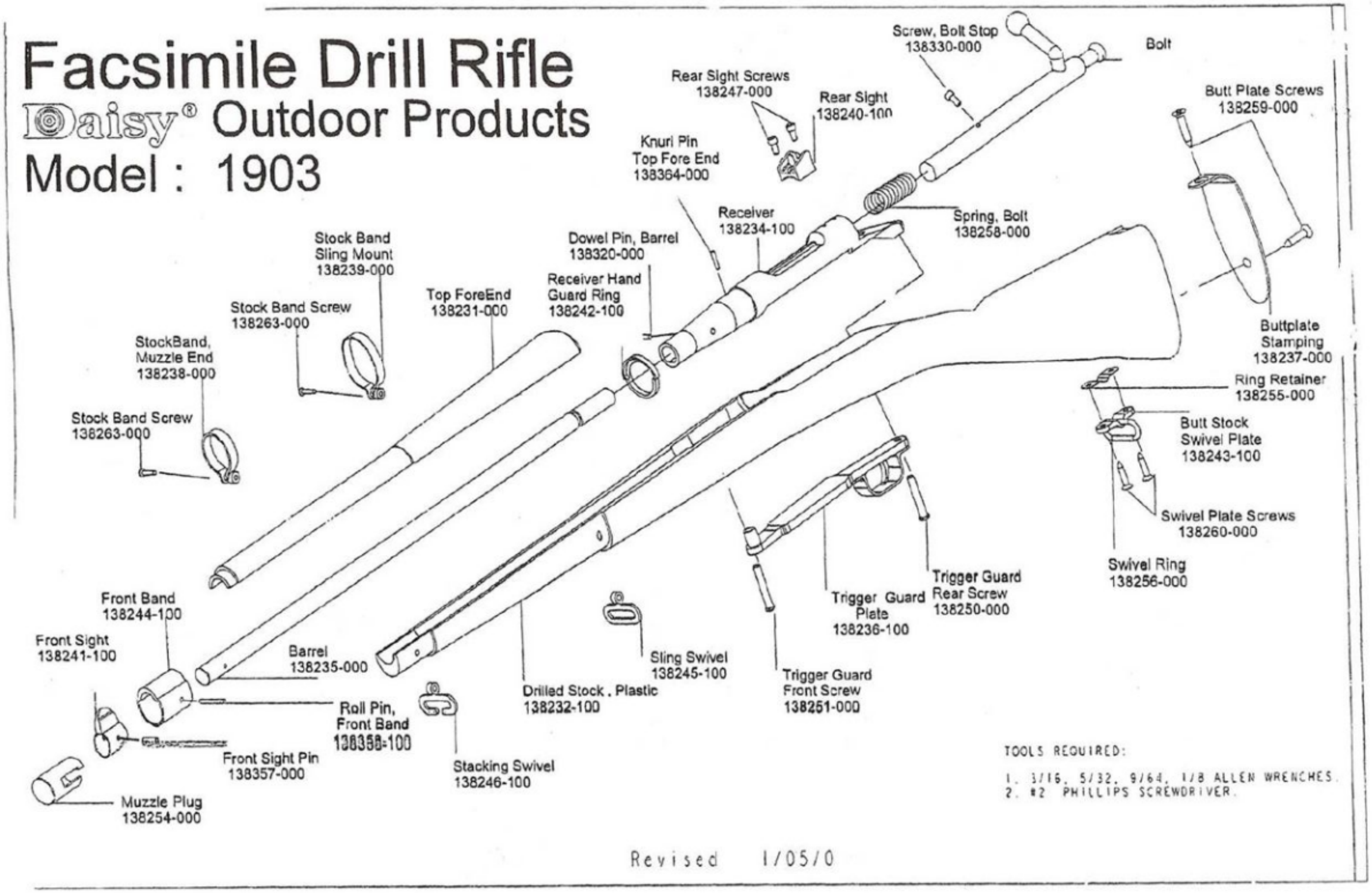
In 2008 the US Navy let contract number N68836-08-P-1833 in the amount of $140,288 for an unknown number of these drill rifles. They are also being used by Navy ROTC units.

The Daisy Replica Drill Rifles are among the most durable and functional rifles of this type. They can be purchased directly from Daisy Outdoor Products.

Recently while doing research on the internet, John Spangler located a US Navy document relating to the Navy supply sole search order to purchase 600 Daisy 1903 drill rifles and related replacement parts. This document is dated in 2009 and also it had other relevant information relating to the Navy Contract for Daisy drill rifles.

NAVEDTRA 37123-B mandates that all of the Navy drill rifles will be replaced by the Daisy 1903 drill rifle. The Navy has over 18,000 Daisy 1903 drill rifles currently in use. These were procured under contract N00140-02-C-G605 at a cost of $3.7 million. The current purchase request for an additional 600 Daisy 1903 drill rifles and related replacement parts is estimated at $269,622.

Facsimile Drill Rifle
Daisy® Outdoor Products
Model : 1903

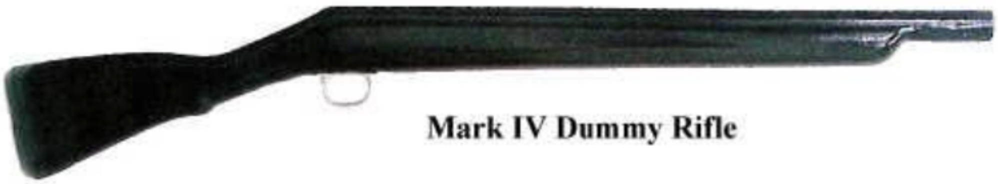


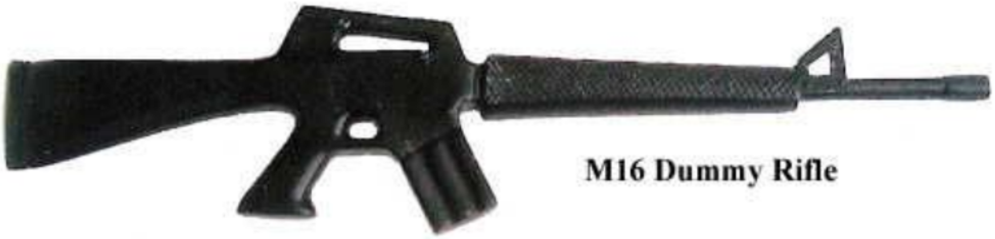
TOOLS REQUIRED:

1. 3/16, 5/32, 9/64, 1/8 ALLEN WRENCHES.
2. #2 PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER.

Revised 1/05/0

Singapore Print Dummy Rifles


Mark IV Dummy Rifle


M16 Dummy Rifle

Singapore Print is a division of Sean Shauna Enterprise. Singapore Print is a large printing company that has a wide range of printing specialties. Little is known about the design or production of these dummy rifles. Their dummy rifles are made of a plastic material and have little detail. They are advertised to be “near to realistic architecture and weight”. The M16 is 34" long and the Mark IV is 35 3/4" long.

Singapore has a National Defense Corps. This is a paramilitary organization that also deals with social and cultural aspects of the lives of their young people. There are about 20,000 young people active in this government sponsored group. The following illustration shows a young man holding one of these dummy drill rifles.

AK 47 Training Rifle

The following photo was taken in 2013 of a group of Palestinian boys in a summer military training camp in Gaza City. They are using wooden training rifles patterned after the AK 47 military rifle. The wooden training rifle pictured below is a replica of the rifles being used. It has been painted to look more like an original AK 47 military rifle but has the same thin profile.